

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM WISHES YOU A WONDERFUL

# Shabbos Parshas Vaeschanan

## FRIDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 16TH

- » Mincha/Kabalas Shabbos/Maariv 7:00 PM
- » Candles 7:52 PM
- » Shabbos Begins 8:10 PM

## SHABBOS DAY, AUGUST 17TH

- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush 8:30 AM
- » 15-min Pirkei Avos Shiur for Women following Kiddush
- » Women & Children S"Y 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- » SEED Learning with CTC Men - 6:40 PM
- » Mincha 7:40 PM
- » Sunset 8:09 PM
- » Talmud Shiur: Gemara Avoda Zara following Mincha
- » Maariv 8:51 PM
- » Shabbos Ends (50 min) 8:59 PM
- » Rabbeinu Tam (72 min) 9:21 PM

**A WISE MAN WOULD SAY: "YOUR VERY BEST FRIEND IS ONE WHO BRINGS OUT THE VERY BEST IN YOU."**

## REFUAH SHELAIMA

### Men

- » Hillel ben Simcha (Jeff Lubin)
- » Daniel Ze'ev ben Miriam (Brother of Josh Rothstein)
- » Yitzchak ben Yocheved (BIL of Moshe Bush)

### Women

- » Sipke Grune bas Lillian (Mother of Jeff Luftig)
- » Tali bas Aviva (Daughter of Aviva Bass)
- » Shoshana Gittel bas Chaya Leah (Sister of Naomi Goldberg)
- » Naama bas Devorah Miriam (Granddaughter of Rabbi & Rebbetzin Rich)
- » Chana bas Hendel (Friend Of Yael Bodenheimer)

## SHABBOS KIDDUSH SPONSORED BY

- » an anonymous sponsor in honor of the amazing Anshei Zera.

## CTC SCHEDULE OF SHIURIM/TEFILLAH (Week of Aug 18, 2024)

**SEED is here for the next two weeks. This week Mincha 7:50 PM followed by SEED Beis Medrash. Maariv 8:50 PM**

- » Gemara Zevachim, Mon - Fri, 6:00 - 6:30 AM
- » **Shacharis, 6:30 AM**
- » Amud HaYomi Sanhedrin: Sunday - Friday, 12 - 1 PM, On Zoom with Rabbi Yaakov Rich. Email Rabbi Rich for the link.
- » Marriage Chabura for men, Sun, 7:30 - 8:00 PM
- » Mesillas Yesharim, Mon - Thur 7:30 - 8:00 PM
- » **CTC Beis Medrash in conjunction with Dallas Kollel, is off for the**

## months of Av.

### Women

- » Parsha Shiur for Women with Rabbi Michael Bodenheimer, Sundays, 8:00 - 8:30 PM

## REBUILDING PROJECT by Marshall Lestz.

*(We are excited to share this column with you each Shabbos in the spirit of helping to repair our relationships and thereby contribute to rebuilding the Beis HaMikdash.)*

## PENALTY DECLINED

Here's a little Rebuilder thought we can glean from the world of football. As we know, when the referee calls a penalty on one of the teams, that's good news for the other team. BUT, every so often, that team will DECLINE the penalty. The reason being, it's not in their best interest to take the penalty. They determine that it's better to ignore the other team's infraction and continue as if the penalty never happened.

Okay sports' fans, let's play that back in slow motion. When somebody commits a penalty against us-- perhaps they speak harshly to us, ignore us, insult us, behave immaturely or irresponsibly towards us-- even though they broke the rules, we always have the choice to decline the penalty. We don't have to make them pay for it. We can let it slide and keep going.

BUT WHY? Why would we ever do that?! Because we recognize that "declining the penalty" is in our best interest! Retaliating never helps. Getting involved in a feud never helps. And speaking lashon hara about them and hating them never helps either. Not only does it harm the relationship, it's also spiritually detrimental-- it definitely doesn't help us advance the ball.

So Rebuilder Team, before we choose our game plan, let's think wisely and remember:

When we try to get even, we penalize ourselves.

But when we decline the penalty... both teams win.

Have a super day, everybody. Keep on Building!

## TIDBITS

The minhag of most Ashkenazi congregations is to stand when the Aseres HaDibros are read during Kerias HaTorah of Parashas Va'eschanan. Most Sephardic congregations are particular not to follow this practice.

The haftarah of "Nachamu Nachamu Ami" is leined. This is the first in a series of seven haftaros known as the Shivasa D'nechemta, the seven haftaros of consolation.

The final opportunity for Kiddush Levana is Sunday night, August 18th.

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# *Shabbos Parshas Vaeschanan*

As the precarious situation in Eretz Yisrael unfortunately continues, each person should increase reciting tehillim and performing other mitzvos as a zechus for the many Acheinu Beis Yisrael in travail and captivity as well as for the soldiers in battle.

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rebbe to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to connect with them as well!

This Monday, August 19th, is Tu B'av. Tachanun is not recited on Tu B'av, and is also omitted at minchah on Sunday, the day prior.

Several notable events took place on Tu B'Av:

The decree that the generation of the Midbar would die and not enter Eretz Yisrael was not carried out on those still alive in the 40th year.

The prohibition against women marrying outside of their shevet was lifted.

The prohibition enacted against Shevet Binyamin after the tragic episode of Pilegsh b'Givah was lifted.

Hoshea removed the guards that Yeravam had placed to prevent Bnei Yisrael from Aliyah Leregel to Yerushalayim.

During the beginning of the Second Beis HaMikdash, the annual wood quota needed for that winter's korbanos was filled.

The Roman occupiers permitted burial of the victims of the massacre at Beitar during the Bar Kochba rebellion. Miraculously, the bodies had not decomposed, despite exposure to the elements for over a year.

The single women of Yerushalayim would dress in white and dance in the vineyards seeking to attract appropriate shidduchim.

Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Elul is Shabbos Parshas Re'eh, August 31st.

Rosh Chodesh Elul is on Tuesday & Wednesday, September 3rd-4th.

Va'eschanan: Hashem denies Moshe's (515!) pleas to be allowed to enter Eretz Yisrael • Do not add to or subtract from the commandments • Torah wisdom will make you great in the eyes of the nations • No nation is as close to Hashem as you are • Remember how the nation stood at Har Sinai • Hashem took you out of Mitzrayim to be His special people and to serve no one but Him • Hashem will not forsake you in exile because of His covenant • Never has any nation been shown miracles like those you have witnessed nor survived being addressed by Hashem • Hashem is supreme and there is nothing besides Him • Moshe sets aside three cities of refuge east of the Yarden • The Aseres HaDibros • Shema Yisrael • The mitzvah of Ahavas Hashem • Tefillin and Mezuzah • Do not forget Hashem amidst plenty • Transmit the story of the Exodus to your children • Destroy the nations of the land; don't mingle with them or learn from them • You are a holy nation to Hashem • Hashem is generous to those who love Him and keep His mitzvos • Hashem punishes His enemies

Haftarah: The haftarah of Nachamu (Yeshaya 40:1-26) relays not only the consolation over the churban, but also foretells the consolation the nation will experience in the future, following instances of pain and destruction. Despite endless persecution, "Netzach Yisrael lo yishaker", our nation continues to survive, constantly rejuvenated through solace ordained from Above.

Parashas Va'eschanan: 118 Pesukim • 8 Obligations • 4 Prohibitions

1) Do not covet another's possessions. 2) Accept the yoke of Heaven. 3) Love Hashem. 4) Set aside time to study Torah. 5) Recite Krias Shema twice daily. 6-7) Wear tefillin on the arm and head. 8) Affix mezuzos to your doorposts. 9) Do not suspect an accepted Navi of falsifying a prophecy. 10) Conquer and destroy the Seven Nations that inhabit Canaan. 11) Do not be overly gracious or grant gifts to idol worshippers. 12) Do not intermarry with the Seven Nations.

Mitzvah Highlight: The Chinuch says that it is within the power of man to quash thoughts and pangs of jealousy that come to him, as one's heart and mind are, in fact, under a person's control.

Be comforted, be comforted My people (Haftarah of Shabbos Nachamu - Yeshaya 40:1)

The Yalkut Shimoni (Yeshaya 44:3) relates that the greatest Nevi'im attempted to console Klal Yisrael after the churban, as did the Avos and Moshe Rabbeinu, to no avail. Only once Hashem joined personally in comforting them were they comforted. - Comfort them together with Me.

Surely, the nation was trusting of the words of the great Nevi'im; why then was it necessary for Hashem personally to comfort them?

Rav Yeruchem Olshin shlit"a quotes the Maharal (Netzach Yisrael 9) that explains that the churban and resulting exile are a result of the breakdown in the relationship between Hashem and His chosen nation. The various sins only resulted in galus once it reached a point where the covenant and connection were considered broken. According to this approach, Rav Shneur Kotler zt"l explains that in essence, the devastation of galus felt by the nation was the separation from the Almighty. Therefore, for the words of consolation to be appreciated, they needed to hear from Hashem Himself that the relationship and closeness will be attained once again.