



BOCA RATON SYNAGOGUE WEEKLY



Parshas Emor | May 1-7, 2026 | 14-20 Iyar, 5786

FRIDAY NIGHT

Earliest Candle Lighting: **6:31pm**
Candle Lighting: **7:34pm**
Mincha: **6:20pm, 7:35pm**

SHABBOS DAY

Mincha: **2:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:20pm**
Shkiah: **7:53pm**
Shabbos Ends: **8:30pm**

SHABBOS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Chaburah after the 8:15am Minyan
with Rabbi Yitzchak Rosenfeld
"אמר מעט"

6:30pm: Afternoon Class
with Rabbi Kevin Rhine
Rabbi Akiva and the Complexity of Success

7:50pm: Shalosh Seudos with Rabbi Goldberg
Connecting to the Holiest Time of the Week



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TOGETHER**



**CARING
TOGETHER**



**LEARNING
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**DAVENING
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**STANDING WITH
ISRAEL
TOGETHER**



**CONNECTING
TOGETHER**

IN THIS ISSUE

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The Book Rabbi Sacks zt"l Couldn't Stop Giving Away

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Torah from the Inside

Rabbi Rael Blumenthal

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Where rabbinic assistance is required, please contact the office at 561.394.0394 if during office hours.

After hours, for Rabbinic emergencies only, please contact:

Rabbi Goldberg: 561.702.4198 Rabbi Moskowitz: 646.457.0337
Rabbi Blumenthal: 561.755.7802 Rabbi Kassorla: 301.524.2246
Rabbi Shabtai: 347.439.7031



There are many members of our shul that are extremely sensitive and highly allergic to the smell of perfume and cologne. We strongly encourage you not to use them in shul, or to do so very lightly. Also please be considerate of your fellow members and stay home when you are sick.



Please do not park in any of the Reserved Parking spots on the BRS Campus. Unauthorized vehicles in the reserved spots will be stickered.

READ • LISTEN • WATCH

rabbiefremgoldberg.org

brsonline.org/rabbi-moskowitz

yutorah.org/boca-raton-synagogue



Get the BRS Zmanim in WhatsApp!

This Shabbos at BRS: Parshas Emor

Torah Reading: **Vayikra 21:1–24:23** • Stone Chumash **Page 672** • Haftarah: **Yechezkel 44:15–31** • Avos: **Perek 4**

Shabbos Zmanim

| Friday Night | | | Shabbos Day | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| Earliest Candles | Candles Before | Shema After | Latest Krias Shema | Latest Tefilah | Mincha After | Shkiah | Shabbos Ends | Rabbeinu Tam |
| 6:31pm | 7:34pm | 8:30pm | 10:00am | 11:05am | 1:51pm | 7:53pm | 8:30pm | 9:06pm |

Shabbos Schedule at BRS (Please see page 26 for the Sephardic Minyan)

| Friday Night | | | Shacharis | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 6:20pm 7:35pm | 7:35pm Khal Chassidim | 7:40pm Nusach Ari/ Shtiebel Minyan | 7:15am Hashkama Minyan Starts w/ R' Yishmael | 8:15am Chaburah Minyan | 8:45am Khal Chassidim | 9:00am Main Minyan | 9:45am Teen Minyan | 10:00am Nusach Ari/ Shtiebel Minyan |
| Rand Sanctuary | Berdugo Beis Medrash | Shtiebel Beis Medrash | Rand Sanctuary | Social Hall | Berdugo Beis Medrash | Rand Sanctuary | Schechet Beis Medrash | Shtiebel Beis Medrash |

| Mincha | | | | Daf Yomi w/ Rabbi Sugerman | Shalosh Seudos | Ma'ariv | R"t Ma'ariv |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 2:00pm | 3:00pm | 5:00pm | 7:20pm | Between Mincha & Ma'ariv | 7:50pm | 8:30pm | 8:54pm |
| Rand Sanctuary | | | | Boardroom | Social Hall | Rand Sanctuary | |

Weekday Shacharis at BRS

| 6:25 (S,T,W,F) 6:15 (M/Th) Social Hall Earliest Talis/Tefillin Sun: 5:57am Mon/Tues: 5:56am Wed: 5:55am Thur: 5:54am Fri: 5:53am | | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 7:00am | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary |
| | 7:30am | Social Hall | Social Hall | Social Hall | Social Hall | Social Hall | Social Hall |
| | 8:00am | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary |
| | 8:30am | Berdugo BM | Social Hall | Sephardic BM | Sephardic BM | Social Hall | Social Hall |
| | 9:15am | Social Hall | Rand Sanctuary | Social Hall | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary | Rand Sanctuary |
| | 10:00am | Rand Sanctuary | Social Hall | Social Hall | Rand Sanctuary | Social Hall | Rand Sanctuary |

Weekday Mincha/Ma'ariv at BRS

| Early Mincha | Mincha/Ma'ariv | | Ma'ariv |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2:00pm (Sun-Thurs) | 5:00pm (Sundays) | 6:20pm (Plag) | 7:40pm |
| | | | 9:00pm • 10:00pm |

Weekday Daf Yomi at BRS

| Weekday Daf Yomi at BRS | | | Yerushalmi Yomi |
|---|--|--|--|
| 7:10am: Rabbi Sugerman brsonline.org/rbsdafyomi | 8:00pm: Stuart Silverman brsonline.org/ssdafyomi | After Arvit: Asher Essebag brsonline.org/aedafyomi | 9:10pm: Stuart Silverman BRS Library |



LIFECYCLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR THE BRS COMMUNITY

MAZEL TOV TO

Susie & Alan Berger on the birth of a grandson. His parents are Jacob & Miri Berger. His aunts & uncles are **Jackie & Yehuda Neuman, Alex & Shmuel Zidell**, and Sarah & Yakov Yeger.

Shlomo & Chaya Cohen and Moshe & Ayelet Gefen of Carmei Katif, Israel on the birth of their grandson. His parents are Ari & Tiferet Cohen, of Boca Raton, and his aunts & uncle are Michal (MAZ!), Tamar & Tani Cohen. The Bris will take place on Monday, May 4 at Young Israel of Boca Raton following the 8:00am Minyan.

Caroline & Daniel Katz on the engagement of their daughter, Pearl, to Evan Fromen. His parents are Heshy & Leslie-Ann Fromen of Englewood, NJ. Mazel tov to all the **Katz, Hirth, Gontownnik**, and Fromen siblings and children.

Leah & Uri Mond on the engagement of their daughter, Deena, to Yoni Yudewitz, of Boca Raton. Mazel Tov to his parents, Rachel & Uri Yudewitz, and their siblings Dani, Gavriella, AJ, Eytan & Emmie.

Stuart & Enny Wax on the birth of their first grandson, to Jake & Tova Domsky of Chicago, IL. His uncles & aunt are Ari Wax and Shira & Seth Silverman. His great grandmothers are Ida Wax of Boca Raton and Sara Anselovics of Elizabeth, NJ. His paternal grandparents are Oron & Judy Domsky of Chicago, IL.

Bonnie & Neal Weinreb on the birth of their first great grandchild, son of Rivka & Menachem Weinreb of Monsey, Brookline, and Jerusalem. His grandparents are Drs. Sandra & Yaakov Weinreb and Beth & Kenny Rozenberg; his aunts & uncles are Dvora & Herschel Scher

Samantha & Marcus z"l Witztum on the birth of her granddaughter. Her parents are Adina & Nathan Witztum; her siblings are Shaina, Dovid, and Mordechai.

Happy birthday to **Lizzy Adler, Ashi Weisstuch, Ron Gall, Avi Geller, Shlomo Ehrlich, Abby Weisstuch, Abby Bienenfeld, and a very special happy and healthy birthday to Rabbi Samuel Fox on his 102nd Birthday!**

If you are celebrating a Simcha & would like a Mazel Tov in the Weekly, please email office@brsonline.org.

Please note that the deadline for the Weekly is Wednesday morning before noon.

If you have a Simcha on the calendar & are changing the date, please contact office@brsonline.org.

REFUAH SHLEIMAH TO

To have the name of a BRS member added to this list, please email office@brsonline.org

To Join the BRS Tehillim Circle WhatsApp, scan the QR code. We will be able to provide immediate updates to the group, and only administrators will be posting, so there will not be unnecessary chatter.



WOMEN

Arielle Mazal Tov bat Aliiah
Meeya Hofstatter: Meeya Tziviva
bas Loren Hadar
Eden Malka bat Ravit
Cochava bas Zara
Noa Maya Carmel: Noa Maya
bat Devora Rachel
Feigel bat Sarah
Esther Chaya bas Batya
Shulamit bat Bella
Gittel Rivka bat Tzina
Chana Sara bat Tamar
Mindel bas Sussa
Chava Yehudith bat Kayla Faige

Shevy Brand: Batsheva Pessil
bas Shayna
Chaya bat Mali Miral
Perel Miriam bas Chaya
Roiza bas Devorah Hinda
Ruchama
Yisraela Liba bat Malca
Penina bas Chana
Devorah Sheva bat Hinda
Chaya (Diane Aiken)
Rivka bas Rachel
Chaya Yael Shoshana bas
Channa Friedal

MEN

Baruch Arieh Leib ben Bayla
Rochel
Bob Strauss: Chayim Halevi ben
Tzipora
Boruch Len: Boruch ben
Devorah
Chaim Nachum ben Elka Leah
David Yitzchak ben Gidalya
Yeshaya Michael ben Malka
Moshe Arye ben Toba
Mordechai hachohen ben Miryam
Shimi Ehrenfeld: Shimon
Yitzchok ben Chaya Breindel

Nachum Gershon ben Kayla
Yosef ben Feige
David Yosef ben Eliezer Halevi
Moshe Tzvi ben Rochel Leah
Michael Avraham ben Nechama
Yehonasan Esan ben Batsheva
Bracha
Reuvain ben Peril
Zelig ben Razel
Yitzchak Dovid ben Sarah
Yitzhak Rahamim Yaakov ben
Simcha
Yosef Yaakov ben Milia

Yahrzeits

14 Iyar

Myrna Dress in memory of her grandmother, Sophie Deering Wesler
Moshe Elkoby in memory of his mother, Remond Elkoby
Michael Frenkel in memory of his father, Leo Frenkel
Daniel Kaskel in memory of his uncle, Alvin Kaskel
Melissa Keehn in memory of her mother, Leslie Gabel
Leslie Tseytlin in memory of her father, Dr. Burton Schweitzer

15 Iyar

Phyllis Bernstein in memory of her mother, Eileen Stern
Daniel Lunski in memory of his mother, Shoshana Bat Ofelia
Moshe Arye Rothman in memory of his mother, Toby Rothman
Daniel Rudensky in memory of his father, Eliyahu ben Aryeh Leib

16 Iyar

Jose Sergio Gritz in memory of his father, Aron Henri Gritz
Howard Niad in memory of his father, Teddy Niad
Channa Portal in memory of her father, Rabbi Shlomo Tepper

17 Iyar

Mordechai Cohen in memory of his sister, Simcha Erez
David Goldwasser in memory of his father, Iso Eli Goldwasser

18 Iyar

Jose Sergio Gritz in memory of his grandfather, Joseph Gritz
Harold Kadish in memory of his sister, Essie Kadish
Joel & Malka Morris in memory of their grandson, Donny Morris
Samuel Wald in memory of his father, David Wald
Raphael Wald in memory of his father, David Wald
Norman Wald in memory of his brother, David Wald

19 Iyar

Matthew Hocherman in memory of his aunt, Sonia Baum
Gabriel Lasry in memory of his father, Rav Yosef Hai ben Estreya
Perry Tirschwell in memory of his mother, Barbara Tirschwell

20 Iyar

Phyllis Greenblum in memory of her mother, Roslyn Weisberg
David Levenson in memory of his grandfather, Irving Pallas
Avi Wiederman in memory of his brother, Moe Wiederman

IN APPRECIATION

Lauren Malkiel thanks R' Goldberg, R' Moskowitz, R' Zians, Yvette Kawelblum, Jessica Weiss, and everyone in the community for reaching out during the shiva period for her father and for all the ongoing messages and calls since. These caring messages are very meaningful & tremendously helpful.

Sponsorships this Shabbos

Hashkama Minyan Kiddush

Sponsored by Yanki & Amy Braun
in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his father,
Reb Shlomo ben Gittel Malka Alexander Braun

Main Minyan Kiddush

Sponsored this week by Miriam Fox in honor of her
dear husband, Rabbi Samuel Fox's, 102nd birthday

Khal Chassidim Minyan Kiddush

Sponsored by Leah & Uri Mond in honor of the
birth(day) of their daughter, Emmie ... 5 years ago
and by Avi & Esther Wiederman in honor of Avi's brother's
yahrzeit Moshe Efraim ben R' Yehuda Tzvi Hirsch this
Thursday 20 Iyar

Sephardic Kiddush

Sponsored by Noam & Naomi Litwack in honor of Naomi's
parents, Rachel & Yosef Cohen, visiting from Israel

Shalosh Seudos

Sponsored by Moshe Arye & Ruchie Rothman in
commemoration of the yahrzeit of his beloved mother,
Toba bas Reb Moshe Yehuda.

Sephardic Seudah Shlishit

Sponsored by Nissan & Channa Portal l'ui nishmat
her father, Rabbi Shlomo Zalman ben Dov זצ"ל,
whose yahrzeit falls on the 16th of Iyar

Wine for Kiddush & Havdalah

Sponsored by Julian & Lauren Hammond

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Choose the Minyan & sponsorship level, and the sponsorship verbiage for the WEEKLY.
We look forward to coming together at a Kiddush sponsored by you!





Are You Trying to Inspire... but Pushing People Away?

Rabbi Efrem Goldberg

Marah D'asrah • reg@brsonline.org

A man once tried to convince his friend to start exercising. Every time they met, he'd shake his head: "You really should take care of yourself. This isn't healthy." The friend nodded politely and changed nothing. A few months later, the man stopped lecturing. Instead, he began inviting him: "I'm going for a walk along the beach. Join me, it's really nice at sunset."

The first time, the friend came just to talk. The second time, he stayed longer. By the third, he was the one suggesting it. Nothing about the message had changed. Only the tone had. And that made all the difference.

Dale Carnegie once said, "People are rarely persuaded by what we say. They are persuaded by what they feel." Criticism may be accurate. Reproach may even be justified. But it almost never invites someone closer. More often, the stronger the passion we feel for something and the more we want others to adopt it, the more aggressive we get in recruiting them which builds a quiet resistance, the kind that smiles politely and then walks away unchanged.

This is true for encouraging others to exercise, get more sleep, or eat healthier. It is true for trying to influence others to keep Shabbos or kosher or dress more

modestly. And it is also true for promoting Aliyah.

In a recent episode of Behind the Bima, I used an expression that touched a nerve. In a conversation with Mrs. Yael Leibowitz about her new book on Ezra, I used the term "Aliyah snob." It was never my intention to insult or disparage anyone, particularly not those who have heroically uprooted their lives and moved to Israel. I sincerely apologize to anyone I may have hurt. Allow me to clarify what I meant and be more precise about the phenomenon I was referring to.

Despite my consistent and very public support of Israel online and offline, people regularly tell me that because I have not moved to Israel, I am the reason Moshiach is not yet here. Others have challenged me that if I really care about Israel I would move and that if I don't, there is no point to my advocating for, posting about, or supporting Israel. Many tell me that if I would simply announce I was moving, the whole Boca community would follow, despite that being something that has never happened in history.

When I visit, people who are no more than acquaintances, or sometimes even strangers, belligerently urge, encourage, harass, challenge, and criticize me regarding Aliyah.

To be exceedingly clear: not only do I not have anything against anyone promoting Aliyah, I myself talk about Aliyah constantly and promote it unfailingly. In our community, each year we celebrate and honor those who make Aliyah. We host Nefesh b'Nefesh and Israel real estate seminars regularly, and partner to make Aliyah as seamless as possible. I regularly challenge members of our community to consider not if but when they will move to our homeland. I often share that while there are legitimate reasons not to move to Israel there are no legitimate reasons for not struggling with making Aliyah.

All of that said, the expression I have used for some time, "Aliyah snob," is not about moving to Israel or directed at those who have moved or are planning to. It is about the language and methodology of how it is promoted.

Recently, Makor Rishon carried an opinion piece from its former editor, Haggai Segal, issuing a "final call" to American Jews and demanding that they make aliyah. "Dear brothers, you are traitors," he wrote. "You are committing treason against us and committing treason against yourselves." He believes it is time for a change of tone and that it is time to tell American Jews plainly what he thinks of them. Considering he wrote in Hebrew and in a newspaper that

few American Jews have heard of let alone read, one must wonder how he thinks he accomplished that. He proposes that if American Jews don't immigrate en masse in the next five years, the Israeli Rabbinate should essentially excommunicate them and that the Jewish Agency end its shlichim program.

Demonstrating, intentionally or unintentionally, that this problem is not new, Segal turns back to an ancient source when he references the Gemara which quotes Reish Lakish who addressed the Jews of Bavel and told them, "Eloka sanina lechu, God hates you" for failing to come up to the Land of Israel in the days of Ezra. What he fails to focus on is the result of that approach. Rather than heed the call of Reish Lakish's rebuke, they stayed, built the community of Bavel and published the authoritative Talmud until today, the Talmud Bavli.

My goal is not to defend the Jews of Bavel nor of Boca for staying where they are. My point is to highlight that trying to convince Jews to move to Israel by telling them God hates them if they don't, or that they are traitors to their people, didn't work then and it doesn't work now.

Whether such statements are fair is debatable, but what is clear, at least to me, is that they are unhelpful and unproductive. What makes someone an "Aliyah snob" is not their love of Israel, their promotion of Aliyah, or their calls to their brothers and sisters in the Diaspora to come join them. It's their tone, their condescension, their sometimes outright smugness in how those calls are expressed.

You want to convince people to make

Aliyah? Share the beauty of Israel and building a life there. Express the sense of religious and spiritual satisfaction and fulfillment by living Jewish destiny in the Jewish homeland. Quote sources and advance arguments for why one ought to consider moving to Israel. But dismissiveness, condescension, judgment, condemnation, and name-calling are unlikely to change minds and addresses.

This isn't true only about Aliyah, of course, it applies to any virtuous behavior or decision we want to persuade someone to join. I would (and often do) say the exact same thing about inspiring people to keep Shabbos, keep kosher, exercise, or make any other positive choice or change.

Nobody ever started keeping Shabbos because a rock was thrown at them or because they were told that if they do not, they are a bad Jew. People embrace Shabbos because they were lovingly invited to experience it, shown its beauty, exposed to its meaning. They were invited to learn about why it is important and right for them.

Similarly, nobody makes Aliyah because the proverbial rock is thrown at their head or because they are told they are traitors or bad Jews or the reason Moshiach won't come if they do not. People don't make Aliyah because they are told there is no future where they live, the writing is on the wall, or it isn't safe to stay where they are.

I also believe there should be some reflection and self-awareness among a certain subset of this group. The most amusing Aliyah snobs are those who spent a significant part of their lives living outside of Israel, but when the moment and time

is right for them to go, they no longer can understand or tolerate how everyone is not coming with them. The same people who felt justified living in the Diaspora until circumstances and drive were just right and brought them home, become bewildered, shocked, and intolerant of anyone who has not moved exactly on their timeline or according to their expectations. When Aliyah is weaponized, it is not only not inspiring or convincing, it is counterproductive and alienating.

I can only share what speaks to me and positively contributes to making me struggle with Aliyah and what doesn't. When I see or hear aggressive judgement and harsh criticism in general or directed at me, it turns me off and pushes me away. When I read or watch people share how profoundly meaningful, joyful and rich their lives are by living in our homeland, I crave and want what they have.

Let's expose our diaspora communities to more of the energy and people of Israel. Let's organize more trips and missions to experience communities that can become future landing spots. Let's share and learn Divrei Torah that frame where we are in history and invite us to be part of shaping our destiny.

If you've found meaning and sacrifice, whether in the context of Aliyah or any other aspect of Jewish life, I respect and envy you. Share the joy you are experiencing and the kedusha and beauty you are exposed to. Share it daily. But please, whether its Aliyah or any other virtuous choice, don't be a snob.

Be an inspiration instead of a critic and we will want what you have.

Dear BRS Family,

Please know that we are here for you and care deeply about each of you. Whatever you may need, big or small, we want you to feel comfortable reaching out. Whether it's a question of halacha or life advice, a shoulder to cry on during a difficult time, a helping hand when things feel overwhelming, or simply a cup of coffee or lunch together to connect—we are accessible, available, and honored to share those moments with you. You are not a bother, and we are never too busy for you. Being part of a kehilla, a loving community, means never having to walk alone, and we are grateful for the privilege of walking this journey with you.

With love and friendship,

Rabbi Efrem & Rebbetzin Yocheved Goldberg

You can reach Rabbi Goldberg at reg@brsonline.org or 561-394-0394

You can reach Rebbetzin Goldberg at goldbergmom@gmail.com or 561-350-5965



RABBI GOLDBERG'S *Parsha Perspectives* FOR TODAY

Short Divrei Torah on Emor for your Shabbos Table

Delivered on Tuesday, 11 Iyar, 5786/April 28, 2026

Listen and read more Parsha Perspectives at rabbiemgoldberg.org/parsha

Sponsored by Eli & Sara Malka Neger lilui nishmos Esther Tehila bas R' Gavriel Pinchas & Yitzchok Moshe ben Aaron Yaakov Yehoshua.

DVAR TORAH FOR THE FRIDAY NIGHT MEAL

Getting the Message Across

In the first *pasuk* of Parshas Emor, Hashem commands Moshe to relay to the *kohanim* the unique laws that are relevant to them. He says, ... אמור אל הכהנים בני אהרן ואמרת אליהם... – “Speak to the *kohanim*, the sons of Aharon, and say to them...”

The Gemara in Maseches Yevamos (114), as Rashi cites, notes the repetition in this *pasuk*, as God tells Moshe ... אמור... ואמרת – to “speak to the *kohanim*...and say to them,” implying that this speaking is to be done twice. The explanation, the Gemara tells us, is that Hashem was commanding Moshe להזהיר גדולים על הקטנים – to assign the adults the responsibility of teaching these laws to their children. Moshe was to both convey this information to the *kohanim*, and instruct them to convey it to their children.

How did Chazal find in this *pasuk* any reference to teaching children? How does the repetition of אמור...ואמרת indicate anything about education?

Rav Menachem Bentzion Sacks, in *Menachem Zion*, explains that education requires repetition. In order to get the message across, saying it once does not suffice. Parents need to repeatedly speak about their beliefs, values and principles so that these messages are effectively imbibed by their children.

If we think about the people who left the greatest imprints upon us – our parents, perhaps a rabbi or teacher – we will notice that we were impacted by the things they would often say, that they liked to repeat. Perhaps it was an idea they would say each year at the *seder*, the same *dvar Torah* on a certain *pasuk* that was repeated each year when that *parsha* was read, a story or idea that was frequently referenced, or a point that was emphasized over and over. Effective *chinuch* requires אמור...ואמרת – repetition, emphasis, driving home a point by returning to it regularly.

Rav Sacks proceeds to bring a *pasuk* from Parshas Haazinu (Devarim 32:20) in which God laments, כי דור תהפכות המה בנים

– “For they are a ‘crooked’ generation, children with no trustworthiness.” The word אמון, Rav Sacks observes, is related to the word אמונה – faith, but is associated also with *chinuch*, as אמון denotes training and practicing. When לא אמון, when Torah values and principles are not “practiced,” when the children are not trained through repetition, then the אמונה, the faith, is lost. *Chinuch* requires training, repeating the message until it gets across.

Many of the teachings that appear in *Pirkei Avos* are introduced with the words הוא היה אומר – “He would say.” Rather than simply cite the teaching in the name of its author, the *Mishnayos* emphasize that this *Tanna* would often repeat this message. The ideas and messages that we repeat are the ones that penetrate our children’s minds and hearts and become embedded within their mindset, remaining there even in adulthood.

The Freedom to Serve

– “You shall count for yourselves from the day following the Shabbos, from the day when you bring the waved *omer*...” (23:15).

The Torah commands us to count forty-nine days מחרת השבת – starting from “the day following the Shabbos.” Chazal understood the word שבת in this *pasuk* as a reference not to Shabbos, but rather to the first day of Pesach, which is observed as a Yom Tov. As the Torah commands several *pesukim* earlier, a special *korban* was brought consisting of an *omer* of the new grain on the second day of Pesach, the 16th of Nissan. Thus, when the Torah here tells us to begin counting on the day of the *omer* sacrifice, which is מחרת השבת, it must mean that that counting begins on the day following the first day of Pesach.

The *Tzedukim*, a heretical group that denied the authority of the תורה שבעל פה, rejected this interpretation. They insisted on the literal reading of the words מחרת השבת, and thus claimed that the counting of the *omer* must begin specifically on Sunday.

Rav Solovetichik noted that this debate was not merely

exegetical, revolving around the understanding of the word שבט. It involved also the question as to the relationship between Pesach and Shavuos. Chazal's interpretation means that *sefiras ha'omer* begins the day after Pesach, connecting the event of *Yetzias Mitzrayim* to Shavuos. The *Tzedukim*, however, deny this connection. In their view, the *omer* period, which culminates in the celebration of Shavuos, has no intrinsic relationship to Pesach. For the *Tzedukim*, Pesach celebrates the event of *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, but Shavuos is nothing other than an agricultural holiday, celebrating the wheat harvest.

For us, however, Pesach and Shavuos are inextricably linked, because the purpose of *Yetzias Mitzrayim* was to lead to *Matan Torah*, which we celebrate on Shavuos. True freedom is not freedom from something, but the freedom to do something. The freedom we celebrate on Pesach is not the freedom from Egyptian bondage – but the freedom to serve the Almighty. This is expressed, the Rav added, in the famous והוצאתי... והצלתיו... – ארבע לשונות גאולה ויהוצאתי... והצלתיו... – "I will bring you out... I will rescue you... I will redeem you... I will take you." The first three speak of the people's freedom from slavery, but the fourth – ולקחתי אתכם לי – לעם ("I shall take you for Me as a nation") – is about *Matan Torah*, about *Benei Yisrael's* entering into a special covenant with Hashem and accepting the Torah. This was the entire goal of *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, and thus these two *Yamim Tovim* – Pesach and Shavuos – are closely linked. This link finds practical expression in the *mitzva* of *sefiras ha'omer*, as we count the days ממחרת בשבת, immediately following our celebration of *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, until the day of *Matan Torah*.

DVAR TORAH FOR THE SHABBOS DAY MEAL

Achieving Mastery Over Time

The Rav developed the special significance of *sefira* – counting – as the means by which Pesach and Shavuos are linked, explaining why the process of moving from *Yetzias Mitzrayim* to *Matan Torah* is characterized by daily counting:

The basic criterion which distinguishes freeman from slave is the kind of relationship each has with time and its experience. Bondage is identical with passive intuition and reception of an empty, formal time stream.

When the Jews were delivered from the Egyptian oppression, and Moshe rose to undertake the almost impossible task of metamorphosing a tribe of slaves into a "nation of priests" he was told by God that the path leading from the holiday of Pesach to Shavuos, from initial liberation to consummate freedom, leads through the medium of time. The commandment of sefirah was entrusted the Jew; the wondrous test of counting forty-nine successive days was put to him. Those forty-nine days must be whole. If one day be missed, the act of numeration is invalidated.

A slave who is capable of appreciating each day, of grasping its meaning and worth, of weaving every thread of time into a glorious fabric, quantitatively stretching over the period of seven weeks but qualitatively forming the warp and woof of centuries of change, is eligible for Torah. He has achieved freedom.

In order to attain true freedom and thus be worthy of receiving the Torah, we must gain an appreciation of the value of time, of every moment we are given. A slave has no control over his time, whereas a free man does. Therefore, immediately after our celebration of *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, we count each day for seven weeks – demonstrating our appreciation of time and our commitment to use our time properly.

Time awareness has become an especially difficult challenge in our generation, when our screens are, tragically, consuming enormous amounts of our time. So many people have lost this crucial component of freedom – the freedom to use their time constructively – because they have become slaves to their screens. The *sefira* period calls upon us and challenges us to work harder to attain true freedom, to regain our control of our time, to recognize the great potential of every moment that we are given in this world, and to commit to using our time productively.

DVAR TORAH FOR SHALOSH SEUDOS

The Tzedaka Mindset

Amidst the Torah's commands regarding the *Yamim Tovim* and the special *korbanos* offered on these occasions, it interjects with the *mitzvos* of פאה and לקט, which require leaving certain portions of one's agricultural produce for the poor (23:22).

Rashi, citing the Midrash, explains why these *mitzvos* were introduced in the context of the *Yamim Tovim*:

ללמדך שכל הנותן לקט שכחה ופאה לעני כראוי מעלין עליו כאילו בנה בית המקדש והקריב עליו קרבנותיו בתוכו.

To teach you that whoever gives שכחה, לקט, and פאה to the poor properly is considered as though he has built the Beis Ha'mikdash and brought the sacrifices in its midst.

Rav Shmuel Berenbaum, in *Tiferes Shmuel*, takes note of the word כראוי – "properly" – in Rashi's comments. The emphasis here is not on the fact that the farmer shared his produce with the needy – but rather than he did so כראוי, the right way. We can easily imagine the farmer having serious misgivings about people coming into his field and helping themselves to produce which he worked so gruelingly hard to grow. He needed to plow, seed, water and harvest the grain. He needed to purchase equipment and to invest long hours of exhausting work. And now he sees people who did nothing to grow this food walk into the field and take their share. Could we blame this fellow for feeling resentful?

Rashi tells us that if the farmer gives the needy their portion with the proper attitude, with a smile, with warmth, happy to give them the assistance they need – then he is considered as though he offers *korbanos* in the *Beis Ha'mikdash*. After all, a *korban* expresses one's genuine desire to give to Hashem, to fulfill Hashem's will even at personal cost. The same is true about giving *tzedaka* כראוי, with the right mindset, understanding that this is our obligation, that we are happily prepared to do Hashem's bidding no matter what's at stake, even when this entails considerable personal sacrifice. Giving with this attitude is akin to the offering of a *korban*, to sacrificing for the sake of fulfilling Hashem's will.

Weekly Learning Opportunities with Rabbi Goldberg



All classes are streamed live and can be watched after on youtube.com/rabbiefremgoldberg
To join whatsapp groups with schedule updates, bonus content, sources, links, and write-ups, visit rabbiefremgoldberg.org/whatsapp

DAILY



SIDDUR SNIPPETS

DAVEN LIKE YOU MEAN IT!

6 minutes a day can transform your relationship with Hashem.
Daily between Mincha & Ma'ariv in the Rand Sanctuary
 Sponsored by the Muller family in memory of Joyce's father Robert Siegel, Leizer Reuven ben Yitzchak HaLevi. And by Ayelet & Avrom Forman for the refuah shleimah of Hadassah Rochel bas Chana Golda.

SUNDAYS AT 8:00AM



SEMICHAS CHAVER PROGRAM

Learning Hilchos Nat bar Nat and Stan Yeinam

Learning for Men

To register, go to brsonline.org/scp
 For more info email reg@brsonline.org

לעילוי נשמת החבר שלמה מיכאל בן מאיר שטראוס

TUESDAYS AT 9:30AM



PARSHA PERSPECTIVES FOR TODAY

Insights to the Weekly Parsha

Sponsored by Becky & Avi Katz and Family in memory of David Grossman z"l, Dovid ben Menachem Manis z"l, their beloved father and grandfather
 And by the Dyckman family in memory of their daughter & sister, Daniella Rachel bas Shalom Ezra.

WEDNESDAYS



10 MINUTES OF MEANING

Learning Sefer Tanya
 Following the 7:30 am minyan in the Social Hall

Sponsored by
 Marilyn & Michael Fedak

LIVING WITH EMUNAH

9:00 am in the Social Hall

Sponsored by Drs. Avi & Bella Morgan in memory of Rabbi Dr. Brian Galbut z"l and in memory of her mother, Dr. Ellen Schanzer, & for the Shmirah of the Israeli soldiers.

And generously sponsored anonymously in memory of the 30 fallen soldiers & alumni of Bnei David, Mechina & Yeshiva in Eli, who fell on October 7 & during the war.

FRIDAYS/EREV SHABBOS



EREV SHABBOS KOLLEL

8:30 am in the BRS Library

TURN FRIDAY INTO EREV SHABBOS

10:00 am on YouTube

Sponsored by Mendel & Ciporah Fischman – Zchus for Chaya Rivka bas Ciporah Fradel and in memory of R' Lord Jonathan Sacks, HaRav Ya'akov Zvi ben David Arie z"l.



Plan Out Your Week

Adult Education opportunities are generously endowed by the Loewenstern Family in memory of Helen & Julius Reiter, Elisha Loewenstern, and all IDF soldiers who were killed in battle, especially since October 7, HYD.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

8:30am

Erev Shabbos Kollel

Sponsored by Avi Ratner, as a reminder that there's always a second chance, לכוון פסח שני.

10:00am

Turn Friday into Erev Shabbos with Rabbi Goldberg

Sponsored by Mendel & Ciporah Fischman – Zchus for Chaya Rivka bas Ciporah Fradel and in memory of R' Lord Jonathan Sacks, HaRav Ya'akov Zvi ben David Arie'el z"l.

Sponsored this week by P4P Team: Professionals for Positions, for inquiries email Marc@p4p.team.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

8:00am

Semichas Chaver Program with Rabbi Goldberg

9:15am

Avos Ubanos

Sponsored by the Blachman family

MONDAY, MAY 4

3:00pm

BRS Afternoon Kollel

7:15pm

Dannie Grajower z"l Midrasha for Women

8:15pm

Sichos Chaveirim on Sefer Malchus Shlomo with Rabbi Shlomi Karmely

9:15pm

Kinyan Mesechta

TUESDAY, MAY 5

9:30am

Parsha Perspectives with Rabbi Goldberg

This series is generously sponsored by Becky & Avi Katz and Family in memory of David Grossman z"l, Dovid ben Menachem Manis z"l, their beloved father & grandfather.

And generously sponsored by the Dyckman family in memory of their daughter & sister, Daniella Rachel bas Shalom Ezra.

Sponsored this week anonymously in the merit of Avner ben Avraham HaCohen, Shayndel bat David, Meshulam ben David, David ben Meshulam, Nissan ben Shimon, Rafael Chayim ben David, and Ashraf Rachel bat Yosef Halevi, may their Neshamas have an Aliyah.

1:30pm

BRS Book Club

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Following the 7:30am Minyan

10 Minutes of Meaning: Sefer Tanya with Rabbi Goldberg

This series is generously sponsored by Marilyn & Michael Fedak

9:00am

Living with Emunah with Rabbi Goldberg

This series is generously sponsored by Drs. Avi & Bella Morgan in memory of Rabbi Dr. Brian Galbut z"l and in memory of her mother, Dr. Ellen Schanzer, and for the Shmirah of the Israeli soldiers.

And generously sponsored anonymously in memory of the 30 fallen soldiers & alumni of Bnei David, Mechina & Yeshiva in Eli, who fell on October 7 & during the war.

Sponsored this week by Alysse Herskovits in memory of Shlomo ben Chaim, that his Neshama have an Aliyah on his first Yahrzeit on Alef Sivan. And by Esther & Shmuel Shayowitz, in loving memory of his father, Yaakov Yehuda ben Gedalya.

3:00pm

BRS Afternoon Kollel

9:15pm

Kinyan Mesechta

THURSDAY, MAY 7

7:30pm

Chill Zone for Girls in Grades 1-5

7:50pm

Parsha Chabura with Rabbi Moskowitz

Sponsored by Dr. Michael & Marilyn Fedak in gratitude for the many weekly learning opportunities at BRS.

8:15pm

Amud Shavui with Dr. Mordy Goldenberg & Dr. Avi Oppenheimer

DAILY CLASSES (M-TH)

6:15am (Mon-Fri) • Sender's Library
Kollel Boker

7:10am • Dana Petrover a"h Board Room
Daf Yomi with Rabbi Sugarman

7:00am

Morning Chaburos with BRS Members

After 7:30am Shacharis (T, Th) • Sender's Library

BRS Boker Kollel Gemara Brachos with Dr. Hillel Cohen

20 minutes before Mincha

Chayei Adam Shiur with Dr. Steven Oppenheimer & Dani Oppenheimer

Between Mincha & Maariv

Siddur Snippets with Rabbi Goldberg

Sponsored by the Muller family in memory of Joyce's father Robert Siegel, Leizer Reuven ben Yitzchak HaLevi. And by Ayelet & Avrom Forman for the refuah shleimah of Hadassah Rochel bas Chana Golda.

8:00pm

Daf Yomi with Stuart Silverman

9:10pm

Yerushalmi Yomi with Stuart Silverman



The Book Rabbi Sacks zt"l Couldn't Stop Giving Away

Rabbi Philip Moskowitz

Associate Rabbi • rpm@brsonline.org

When Rabbi Jonathan Sacks zt"l recommended a book as “an astonishingly inspiring book” and “one of the most inspirations books I have ever read,” it’s hard not to take notice.

A few years ago, I listened to a podcast where Rabbi Sacks zt"l was interviewed by popular media host Tim Ferriss. Tim asked Rabbi Sacks to explain why “The Choice” by Edith Eger was so meaningful to him and is the book that he gifted more than any other. Rabbi Sacks went on to describe with great passion and enthusiasm why “the Choice” made such a profound impact on him and why it wasn’t “just another Holocaust book.” Rabbi Sacks acknowledged that “there are tens, and maybe hundreds of thousands, of them. And I try and read some, but I can’t possibly read all. But

this... became a bestseller... I thought, ‘I must read this.’”

With that recommendation, I couldn’t resist and spent the next few days devouring this extraordinary book. And this past week, with the passing of Dr. Edith Eger, that recommendation, and her message, feels even more powerful and enduring.

Like so many others, Edith was just a teenager when her family was taken from their home in Hungary and sent to Auschwitz. And tragically, like so many others, Edith was immediately separated from her parents, both of whom she never saw again. Edith and her sister Magda managed to stay together and spent the next year helping each other survive unimaginable horrors.

This powerful and at times almost

unbelievable book not only recounts her experiences in the camps, but also traces the difficult and disorienting years that followed, her eventual journey to the United States with her husband, and her long path toward healing.

Even after arriving in America, Edith continued to struggle with the weight of her past and the guilt of survival.

More than two decades after her liberation, Edith was handed a copy of psychiatrist Viktor Frankl’s “Man Search for Meaning.” Deeply moved by the parallels in their experiences, she wrote an article that eventually reached Frank himself. His response helped spark a relationship that became a turning point in her journey of healing and self-discovery.

At the heart of her message is the very

idea reflected in the book's title: choice. As Rabbi Sacks zt"l told Tim Ferriss, "Essentially, her philosophy was very, very simple, and not unlike Viktor Frankl's, which is whatever happens to us, we always have a choice. We always have a choice as to how to see ourselves in relation to what's happening to us. Nobody can take away our mind. Nobody can take away how we define the situation. And it is that choice that's the very essence of human freedom, liberty, and dignity."

Or, as Edith herself put it, "In Auschwitz, we never knew from one moment to another what was going to happen. I couldn't fight or flee, but I learned how to stay in a situation and make the best of what is. I still had choices. So when we were stripped and shorn of our hair, Magda asked me, 'How do I look?' She looked like a mangy dog, but I told her: 'Your eyes are so beautiful. I never noticed when you had all that hair.' Every day, we could choose to pay attention to what we'd lost or what we still had."

Ultimately, it is not our circumstances alone that define us, but how we respond to them.

Nowhere in the Torah is this more evident than in the contrast between Yaakov and Esav. Despite sharing the same home and upbringing, their lives diverged dramatically. One became a patriarch of the Jewish people; the other charted a far different course. Their story reminds us that while background and environment shape us, they do not determine us. Our choices do.

Dr. William Glasser, author of Choice Theory, explains that "for all practical purposes, we choose everything we do... we choose all our actions and thoughts and, indirectly, almost all our feelings and much of our physiology." (3-4) "We must replace our destructive

behaviors with choosing to care, listen, support, negotiate, encourage, love, befriend, trust, accept, welcome, and esteem." (21)

And Viktor Frankl, in recounting his experiences during the Holocaust, concludes, "We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken away from a [person] but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." (75)

I once had the opportunity to meet a young girl named Krizel during a visit to Israel.

Born without sight, she was abandoned as a child and had many social challenges. She might easily have defined herself by what she lacked. Instead, through a program called Sulamot, she discovered music, and with it, a sense of purpose and possibility. They perform in youth orchestras located in 14 communities across the country, gaining individual strengths as they learn to work cooperatively toward common goals. In addition to 18 orchestra programs, there is a special one for blind children.

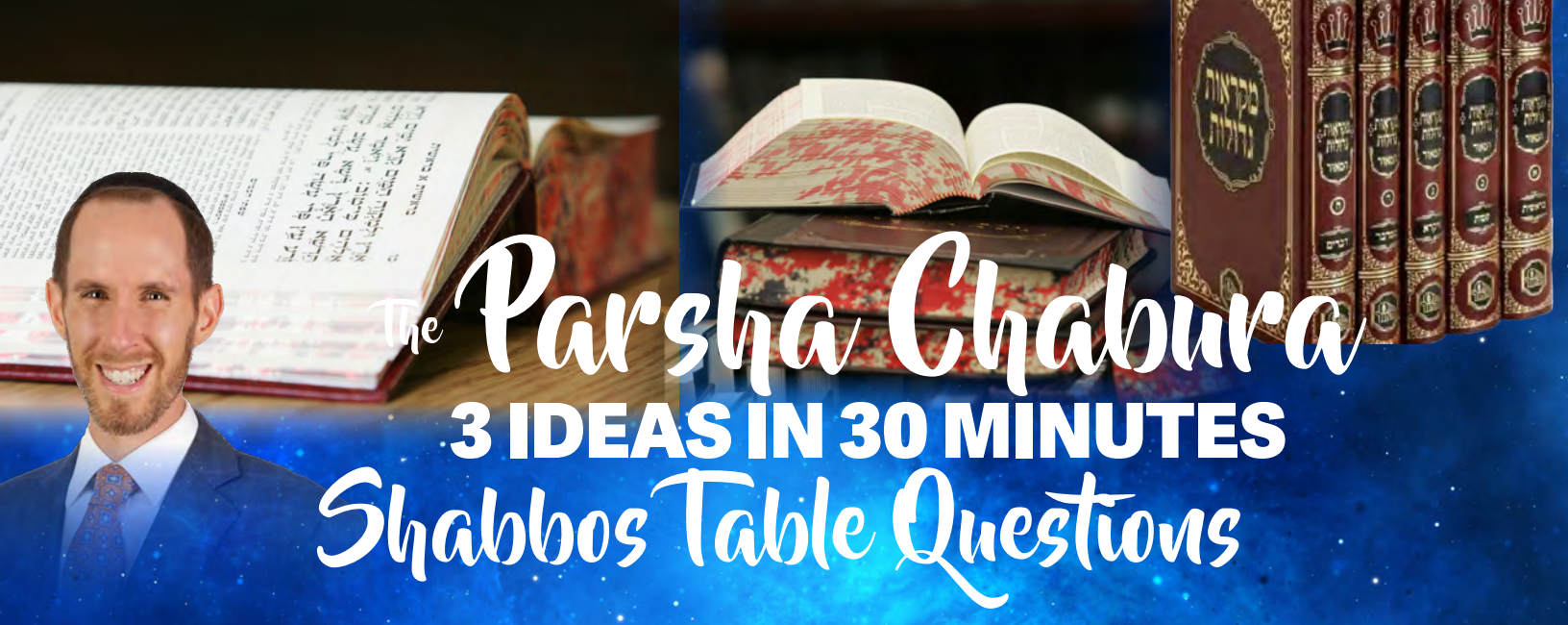
That is Krizel's orchestra.

What stood out most was her outlook. She spoke about the joy of performing and the belief that "no matter who you are, you can do something meaningful." It was a quiet but powerful reminder of what it means to choose possibility over limitation.

Life inevitably brings circumstances we did not plan and would never choose. That has always been true. But alongside that reality is another: within those circumstances, we still retain the ability to choose our response.

Like Edith and Krizel, we can choose how we show up, for ourselves, for our families, and for those around us. We can choose resilience, perspective, and even moments of gratitude.

Those choices don't remove the challenges, but they do shape the way we live through them. And over time, they shape who we become.



The Parsha Chabura

3 IDEAS IN 30 MINUTES

Shabbos Table Questions

Based on Rabbi Moskowitz's Thursday Night Parsha Chabura

Idea #1: Seeing "Stale Bread" or a Living Miracle

At the end of Parashat Emor, the story of the blasphemer may trace back to his cynical view of the *lechem ha-panim*, seeing it as stale rather than miraculous. The same reality can appear empty or full of life depending on our perspective.

Idea #2: Kindness as Kiddush Hashem

Rav Meir Simcha of Dvinsk teaches that the Torah's laws in the Parsha, even those about animals, are meant to cultivate compassion, showing that true *kiddush Hashem* comes through kindness and sensitivity. Holiness isn't abstract; it is expressed in how gently and humanely we treat others and the world around us.

Idea #3: Accountability and Sensitivity

The story of the *mekalel* reminds us that while difficult life circumstances can explain behavior, they do not justify it, wrong is still wrong. At the same time, the Torah hints that the community may have failed him, teaching us to be more aware of and sensitive to those who feel like outsiders.

Two Questions for the Table:

1. Think of a recent situation you initially saw negatively. How might the story of the *lechem ha-panim* challenge you to reframe it?
2. What habits or mindset shifts can help us notice the "freshness" and good in people or situations instead of defaulting to cynicism?

Two Questions for the Table:

1. What is one small act of kindness you can do this week that would reflect your values and represent something greater than yourself?
2. Who is someone whose kindness left a lasting impact on you and how might you pass that same kind of impact on to others?

Two Questions for the Table:

1. When someone acts wrongly but has a difficult backstory, how do we balance holding them accountable while still having empathy?
2. Have you ever noticed someone on the "outside" of a group? What is one small thing you could do to help them feel more included?



Thursday Night Learning for Men
8:15pm in the Social Hall

Listen to previous shiurim at brsonline.org/3ideas
or on your favorite podcast app

Scan the QR code to join the Parsha Chabura
WhatsApp Group for updates!

**Come for
the Hot
Dogs.
Stay for
the Torah!**





HAFTARA FOR PARSHAS EMOR

The Messianic Horizon: Why Yechezkel's Laws Don't Fit (Yet)

Rabbi Yosef Kassorla

Assistant Rabbi • ryk@brsonline.org

Yechezkel's vision of the Third Beit HaMikdash, and especially our haftarah in chapter 44, is not a set of laws we can simply plug into halachah today. It is a picture of a reordered world, a messianic horizon, and therefore a guide to our own avodah on the long, deliberate journey from exile to redemption.

Yechezkel was a kohen who prophesied from exile in Bavel after the deportation of 597 BCE, speaking to a community torn from Yerushalayim and living through the destruction of the First Beit HaMikdash. From that foreign land he taught that the churban was not random tragedy but the

just consequence of B'nei Yisrael's corruption and idolatry, even as he became one of Tanach's great prophets of hope, promising that Hashem would gather the exiles, cleanse their hearts and restore His presence among them. His book moves between terrifying judgment and breathtaking restoration: the Merkavah in chapter 1, the departure and return of the Shechinah, the Valley of Dry Bones, the war of Gog uMagog, and finally the closing vision of an ideal future Beit HaMikdash, land and priestly order.

Within that closing section, our haftarah presents a detailed priestly code for that future Mikdash. Only

the sons of Tzadok, who remained loyal when other priests turned to avodah zarah, may serve at the mizbeach, while other Levi'im are limited to lesser tasks. The kohanim are bound by special rules of dress, hair, wine, marriage and contact with the dead, and they live without land, supported instead by the people's gifts. When Chazal compared these laws with the parshiyot of Vayikra, however, they saw that the pieces did not neatly align. Some of Yechezkel's marriage and purity rules appear stricter than the Torah's, the korbanot and measurements in the surrounding chapters diverge from those in the Chumash, and the sharp demotion of

most Levi'im has no clear precedent. Chazal even recall that there was a fear Sefer Yechezkel would be removed from Tanach until Chananya ben Chizkiyah (Menachot 45a) labored to reconcile its words with those of the Torah.

The result of that effort was not to treat Yechezkel 44 as a simple halachic code for their own day, but to affirm it as nevuah, a true vision of a future order whose full legal shape lies beyond us. The fact that the laws of our haftarah do not work smoothly together with the halachic system we actually live by becomes part of the message. Yechezkel is not describing a world we can step into tomorrow. He is sketching a different spiritual climate, a Beit HaMikdash and a society on a higher level of kedushah than the one for which the original Torah legislation was given. Later commentators suggest that his stringencies reflect an added sanctity fitting for a Mikdash and a people refined by exile and final redemption, not a contradiction to the Torah itself.

Seen this way, the very non functionality of these laws in our present framework signals that Yechezkel is pointing to a messianic era. In his closing chapters B'nei Yisrael has been fully gathered home, the land has been justly repartitioned, the Shechinah has returned permanently so that the city is called Hashem Shammah, and only a purified line of Tzadok serves in Hashem's house. In such a world, the priestly restrictions and structures of our haftarah belong naturally; they are calibrated to a reality in which Hashem's presence is manifest and the people's heart has already been transformed. The friction between Yechezkel's code and ours is a quiet reminder that we are looking at a blueprint pinned to the wall of Jewish

history, a plan that is fully coherent in its own time but cannot yet be transplanted into our unfinished present.

This gap between vision and practice does not frustrate our avodah. We are meant to aim ourselves toward Yechezkel's ideal, letting his picture of a purified priesthood, just leadership and a resanctified land shape our aspirations and our tefillot. The sons of Tzadok model uncompromising loyalty in a time of collapse, and we are called to cultivate that kind of integrity even without a Beit HaMikdash, building communities and leaders who keep the charge of Hashem's sanctuary when the culture around them strays. At the same time, we are warned not to confuse aiming for the vision with pretending that we already live inside it. If we tried to install Yechezkel's priestly system now, we would break the continuity of Torah and divide the very people we hope to elevate. The haftarah insists that geulah is a process; we move toward the Beit HaMikdash vision step by step, through teshuvah, through chesed, through careful halachic growth and the patient building of healthy institutions, not by declaring that the messianic blueprint has fully arrived.

In this sense the

closing chapters of Yechezkel are an antidote to religious utopianism. His prophecies show dry bones revived in an instant and a Beit HaMikdash appearing in perfect form, but those moments stand on years of rebuke and slow inner work with a broken nation. They teach that a more perfect world will indeed come, but only in Hashem's time and in Hashem's way. Our task is to live consciously in the in-between, eyes fixed on the future Yechezkel sketches, feet planted firmly in the messy present, taking deliberate and sustainable steps of growth rather than desperate leaps toward premature perfection. In that slow, faithful movement, neither surrendering to exile nor trying to force redemption, we begin to prepare ourselves and our communities for the day when Yechezkel's laws will finally fit because the world itself will at last be ready for them.

BOCA RATON SYNAGOGUE PRESENTS A NEW WEEKLY SERIES



Sichos Chaveirim Avodas Hashem for Daily Life

(Based on the sefer Malchus Shlomo)

**with Rabbi
Shlomo Karmely**
Mondays at 8:15pm

Torah for the world we're living in.

Rabbi Karmely was born and raised in Woodmere, NY, where he developed a close relationship with Rabbi Moshe Weinberger. He learned at Yeshiva Darchei Torah and Medrash Shmuel, before receiving semicha from Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz at the Jerusalem Kollel. Rabbi Karmely's teaching reflects a unique blend of Torah, combining chassidic insight with classic yeshiva-style structure, infused with warmth, depth, and practical relevance. He is actively involved in learning and teaching in the Boca community and beyond.





Torah from the Inside

Rabbi Rael Blumenthal

Rabbi, BRS West • rrb@brsonline.org

The Jewish people are not strangers to political upheaval. It's been with us since the dawn of our nation, and only strengthened in Galus.

But sometimes, beneath the unrest, something magnificent is brewing—like the day they deposed Rabban Gamliel.

The Gemara in Brachos tells the whole story.

There were a number of disagreements between Rabbi Yehoshua and Rabban Gamliel, but it all came to a head over one question: Is Maariv reshus or chova? Voluntary or obligatory? It sounds technical, but the results were politically devastating. Rabban Gamliel was challenged by Rabbi Yehoshua, and in what could only be seen as a power play, Rabbi Yehoshua was forced to remain standing throughout the shiur.

The Sanhedrin were appalled by the event and voted to remove Rabban Gamliel from his position. But who could be

appointed in his place? Surely not Rabbi Yehoshua—that would have been too much of an insult. They concluded it could only be Rabbi Elazar ben Azaria.

On his first day as the Rosh Yeshiva, a remarkable thing happened.

Under Rabban Gamliel, the doors of the beis medrash had been shut—most students weren't allowed in. The moment he was removed, the doors burst open.

The Gemara describes the scene: every seat filled, extra benches brought in, rows added. A flood of people who had been on the outside suddenly found themselves on the inside.

It would seem that this is the climax of the story.

But then the Gemara reveals the punchline.

V'oso talmid... Who was the student who had asked the question that started the entire ordeal?

None other than Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.

Somehow, with one question, Rashbi found a way for hundreds of people who had been standing outside the yeshiva to be brought inside.

In the introduction to Likutei Moharan, Rebbe Nachman spells it out: Rashbi made a revolution—that the people on the outside should be on the inside. Because Rashbi's whole world is the world of the inside.

There's a Maharal that should make every serious Jew nervous.

In the introduction to Tiferes Yisrael, the Maharal cites a Gemara in Niddah:

מפני מה אין מצוין תלמידי חכמים לצאת תלמידי חכמים מבניהם

Why is it that talmidei chachamim—Torah scholars—so often have children who are not talmidei chachamim?

The Gemara walks through possibilities. None hold up. Until Ravina says: שאין מברכין בתורה תחילה—because they do not make birkas haTorah.

This is absurd on its face. Talmidei chachamim who aren't saying birkas haTorah?

The Gemara doubles down. Rav Yehuda quotes Rav: this very question was asked of the chachamim and asked of the neviim, and no one could answer it—until הקדוש ברוך הוא בעצמו Himself answered it: על עזבם את תורתי. They abandoned My Torah. They didn't listen to My voice. They didn't walk in My ways.

All of this is captured in the phrase: שאין מברכין בתורה תחילה.

What does that even mean? These are talmidei chachamim. Surely they make brachos?

The Maharal answers: of course they say the words. כי אף אם היו מברכים בפה—even if they say the bracha with their mouths—this thing, the giving of the Torah, requires לברך בכל לבו: to bless Hashem with one's whole heart, to love Him completely.

And then he says it:

ואף אם הוא תלמיד חכם והוא צדיק גמור, רחוק הדבר הזה.

Even if he is a great Torah scholar—even if he is a complete tzaddik—this thing, to bless Hashem with his whole heart for the gift of Torah, is far from him.

Why?

כי התלמיד חכם לבו דבוק אל התורה—because the heart of the talmid chacham is bound up in the Torah itself. The Torah is so beloved to him. ובשביל אהבתם לתורה דבר זה מסלק. אהבת המקום—and his very love for the Torah pushes out the love of the One who gave it, in the very moment he sits down to learn.

אשר בחר בנו מכל העמים ונתן לנו את תורתו is not a blessing on Torah. It is a blessing to Hashem for giving us the Torah. It is about a relationship—between us and Him.

Of course we love the Torah. But where is the love of the Giver?

Is the love for the Daf Yomi—or is the love for the One who gave us the Daf Yomi?

You can be a great talmid chacham, says the Maharal, and if there is no love of the Giver—only love of the gift—there is no continuity. The Torah doesn't pass through.

That is what it means to be on the outside: to learn Tosafos as if there is no God.

The Alter Rebbe asks the question in his early *ma'amorim*: what was Rabbi Shimon doing in the cave for thirteen years?

Everyone thinks he was writing the Zohar.

The Alter Rebbe says the Zohar would have taken three or four months. Of course he learned Zohar—but thirteen years in the cave was Mishnayos. It was finding the *or haganuz* inside מאימתי—“when does one read Shema in the evening?” It was finding Hashem in the smallest details of halacha.

That is what Rashbi did in that cave.

He learned a halacha and said: this is the will of Hashem. This Tosafos, this Rashba, this question—this is the Creator in this world.

The Alter Rebbe writes in Tanya that what we are doing when we learn is connecting our intellect to the intellect of the Creator—adjusting our minds to align with the infinite mind of *Eloku*s.

That is not the same Tosafos.

That is finding Hashem in the page. And once you can find Him in the page, you can find Him in the page of life.

Every moment of every day—a world on the inside.

Everyone who feels they are on the outside of the beis medrash. Everyone who feels *she'ein tocho k'baro*—my outside and my inside don't match. I don't belong here.

Rashbi came to say: no. You belong

inside. Let me show you what it looks like to open a Bava Kama and find Hashem there—to feel connected to Him through a million words and a million laws. To stand at the top of Har HaMoriah, you and the Master of the Universe in the Holy of Holies, and let the rest of the world fall away.

That is all Rashbi.

What is Lag Ba'Omer all about?

It's about living in this crazy world without letting go of Hashem for even a second. It's about being inside, even when we're so far outside. It's about knowing that we're only a moment—or a question—away from bringing the whole world inside.



פרשת אמור תשפ"ו

Parshas Emor 5786

FRIDAY - MAY 1

Candle Lighting - 7:35PM

- 6:45AM Shachris
- 6:10PM Plag Mincha (Ashkenazi)
- 7:40PM Zman Mincha (Ashkenazi)
- 7:00PM Shir Hashirim (Sephardic)
Followed by Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat

SHABBOS - MAY 2 EMOR

- 6:50AM Hashkama Minyan
- 8:30AM Parsha Shiur
- 9:00AM Ashkenaz Minyan
- 9:00AM Sephardic Minyan
- 9:30AM Groups begin
- 10:00AM Sof Zman K'riyas Sh'ma
- 5:55PM Amud Yomi
- 6:25PM Shiur
- 7:15PM Mincha (Sephardic)
- 7:25PM Mincha (Ashkenazi)
- 7:53PM Sunset
- 8:31PM Ma'ariv & Havdalah
- 9:05PM Rabbeinu Tam

WEEKDAY MINYANIM

Shachris: Sun 8am, Mon-Fri 6:45am

Mincha: Sun-Thur 7:45pm

THE SECRETS OF THE LA'MENATZEACH MENORAH

A SHIUR BY RABBI RAEL BLUMENTHAL

THIS SHABBOS | 6:25PM | AT BRS WEST

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by BRS West, for sponsorship opportunities please visit brswest.net/kiddush

The Sephardic minyan Kiddush is sponsored by **Itamar & Mily Evgey** in honor of Ariel's Bar Mitzvah Parasha. Mazal Tov!

Sehuda Shlishit is sponsored by Rony and Hagit Shachar
לעילויי נשמת יוסף
בן רות ואהרן
תנצבה



Groups Parshat Emor

Free play: Games and Toys

Davening

Parsha review / game and Challenge

Parsha activity time

Kids Kiddush: Grape juice, healthy snack, and a treat!

*Who: EC3- EC4, Girls K-2, Girls 3-5, Boys K-1

*When: starts at 9:30 am & pickup is as soon as davening ends

Teen dept

DONUTS & DVAR

9:00AM AFTER HASHKAMA
Boys and Girls invited

JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS DONUTS, SNACKS, AND A MEANINGFUL PARSHA DISCUSSION TO KICK OFF YOUR SHABBOS MORNING

For questions or sponsorships please contact R Aryeh Berzon



PARSHA TRIVIA

Join with other BRS West Middle Schoolers for a fun and competitive Parsha trivia!

15 MINUTES AFTER MUSSAF

Covered Patio

For More Information
Contact Aryeh Berzon

BRS WEST BOYS YOUTH PROGRAM

SHABBOS MORNING SCHEDULE



BOYS GRADES 2-5
LOCATION: GYM LOBBY

- 9:30 - 9:45 am Welcome Boys, Card/ Board Games
- 9:50 - 10:20 am Davening (with Middle School Boys)
- 10:25-10:30 am Snack Break + Raffle #1!!
- 10:35 - 11:00 am Parsha Game Show (Raffle Tickets Available)
- 11:05 - 11:30 am Sports on the Field
- FINAL RAFFLE!!



For sponsorship opportunities, reach out to Miriam Dessau



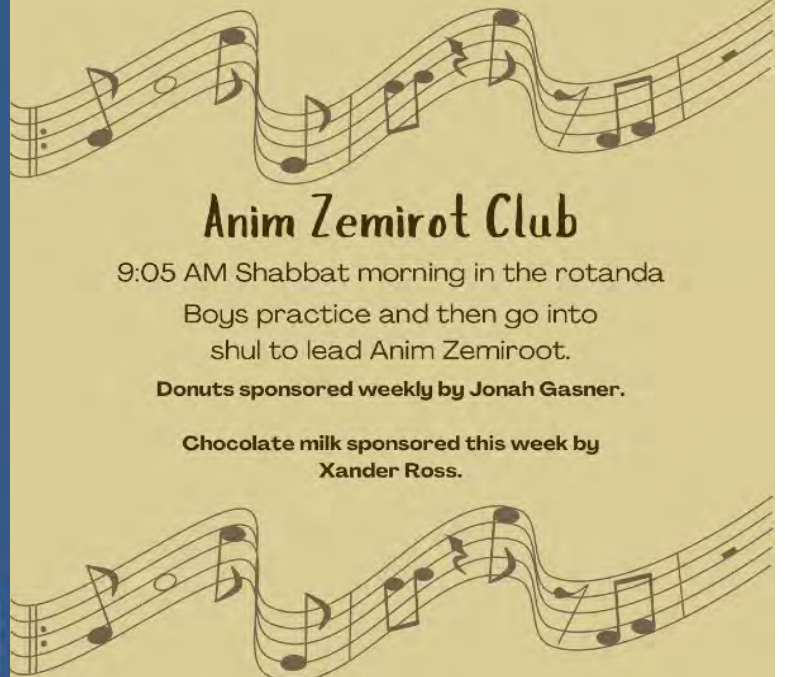
Anim Zemirot Club

9:05 AM Shabbat morning in the rotanda

Boys practice and then go into shul to lead Anim Zemiroot.

Donuts sponsored weekly by Jonah Gasner.

Chocolate milk sponsored this week by Xander Ross.



**BRS WEST
WOMEN'S 2026
SHAVUOT DVAR TORAH
PROGRAM**

**WORKSHOP
WEDS 5/6 8:30PM**

**FINDING YOUR SOURCES
WITH RABBI BLUMENTHAL**

Dvar Torah Workshop Series:
Arrive at Shavuot having developed your next 5-7 min. dvar torah —for yourself, your table or your next talk.
Join **Rabbi Blumenthal** as he shares how to bring sources into your Torah ideas and create a deep Dvar Torah.

ALL WORKSHOPS HELD IN BOCA RIDGE. RSVP TO 773-627-3677 FOR ADDRESS.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

**BRS WEST
WOMEN'S 2026
SHAVUOT DVAR TORAH
PROGRAM**

THE PREGAME

A WORKSHOP SERIES OPEN TO ALL WOMEN. ARRIVE AT SHAVUOT HAVING DEVELOPED YOUR NEXT 5-7 MIN. DVAR TORAH —FOR YOURSELF, YOUR TABLE OR YOUR NEXT TALK.

WEDS 4/29 8:30PM

FINDING YOUR IDEA WITH MAYA SHARFI

WEDS 5/6 8:30PM

CONSULTING THE SOURCES WITH RABBI BLUMENTHAL

WEDS 5/13 8:30PM

DELIVERING YOUR DVAR WITH LEYA HAKIM

ATTEND ONE WORKSHOP OR THE WHOLE SERIES.
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THE BIG SHOW: SHAVUOT

OPENING ACTS

JENNA GASNER
& JENNIFER ROMANOFF

HEADLINER

HOLLY SEIDENFELD

DATE: SHAVUOT DAY 2, SAT 5/23 5PM

LOCATION: BRS WEST MAIN SANCTUARY

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**Lag Ba'Omer
Tisch**

with
**Rabbi Rael Blumenthal
FOR MEN**



**MONDAY NIGHT,
MAY 4**



9:00 PM



THE BLUMENTHAL HOME



**Women's Weekly
Gemara Chabura**

Tuesday Nights **8:30PM-9:30PM**

With Rabbi Blumenthal

ALL LEVELS AND BACKGROUNDS WELCOME



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EXPLAINED**

COUNT EVERYDAY. TO MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT



Scan to Join the Journey

BOCA RATON SYNAGOGUE

Israel Update

Please have in mind children and grandchildren of members of our community currently serving in the IDF:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| David Wolff | Orly Maryles | Hillel Yosef Smolarcik | Avraham Yakov ben | Liba Zelda | Mishael Natan |
| Borenstein | JJ Maryles | Hartley Schwartz | Mindel | Zev Dov Yehuda ben | Sommers |
| Jonathan Cohen | Daniel Miller | Ronit Wolfson | Dov Colman | Fayge Gittel | Yaakov David ben |
| Avigayil Folkman | Dalya Pickholtz | Omer ben Miriam | Isaac Rubin | Amitai Harow | Rachel (Greenbaum) |
| Binny Goffin | Ezra Avraham ben | Menachem Eliahu ben | Zev Yehuda Bloom | Aharon Caleb ben | Maayan Konigsberg |
| Shmuel Goldberg | Roha Hinda | Sara | Dovy ben Avigayil Malka | Devora Chaya | Yoni Mayer |
| Aviad Halfon | Hillel Shafner | Ron ben Sara | Dovid Hercenberg | Yair Strauss | Gabi Rosenthal |
| Sammy Hellerstein | Nachshon Gavriel ben | Yonatan Baruch ben Sara | Natan Noach Jonas | Ephraim Herrmann, | Tani Loskove |
| Avi Kahn | Moshe Yisrael | Akiva Strauss | Meir Lazar | Elyada Moshe ben | Ayelet Berman |
| Shuli Klein | Katie Katz | Chananya Strauss | Gil Aviad Kustanowitz | Malka Leah | Gilad Smith |
| Yair Konigsberg | Netanel Pinchas ben | Yehoshua Strauss | ben Penina Zehava | Binyamin | Mordechai Yehoshua |
| Mikki Kowal | Moshe Chaim | Eitan Yitzchak ben | Avi Wolff | Yecheil ben Sarit | Preiss |
| Noam Lowenstern | Yehonatan David Vloski | Etel Rochel | Bat Chen Bar Yakov | Yonatan Yosef Pesach | Tal'el Bar Yakov |
| Yehoshua Marcus | Hodayah Wolff | Matanya ben Yifat | Sender Aryeh ben | ben Devora | Daniel Lugassy |

If you have children or grandchildren currently serving in the IDF, please let us know their names so we can include them. If your child or grandchild is no longer in the IDF, please email office@brsonline.org so their name can be removed. See names of injured chayalim to daven for at www.ou.org/injured-chayalim



The Helping Israel Fund aids in supplying non-military items to the brave women & men defending Israel. Please let us know if you have any children serving in the IDF as we can be a great resource and help for them. Please call Betsy at 561.869.4606 or visit helpingisraelfund.com to get involved.



Israel Update with the BRS Social Action Committee

From World Israel News: Israel and the United States are set to begin negotiations next month on a new long-term defense assistance framework that could gradually end American military aid to Israel by 2038, according to a report published by Calcalist, an Israeli daily business and economics newspaper and website.

The talks will focus on replacing the current 10-year Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2016 and running through 2028, under which Washington provides Israel with \$38 billion in security assistance.

Under the existing deal, Israel receives aid comprising \$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and \$500 million annually for missile defense.

The new Memorandum of Understanding is expected to mark a significant shift in the relationship, with US financial assistance gradually decreasing over time while cooperation on joint weapons development expands.

Officials from both countries are expected to take part in the negotiations, including senior representatives from Israel's Defense Ministry and the US State Department.

The anticipated changes come amid shifting political sentiment in Washington, where support for military aid to Israel has declined in recent years among both Democrats and Republicans.

At the same time, the US defense industry is experiencing high demand due to global conflicts, reducing reliance on Israeli procurement.

Israeli officials are preparing for the financial impact of a gradual phaseout, warning that maintaining current military capabilities without US aid would require a substantial increase in Israel's defense budget.

The Defense Ministry has already outlined plans for an "intensive decade" of military buildup, including investments in advanced systems such as lasers, air defenses, and next-generation combat platforms.

According to the report, one goal of the upcoming talks is to establish a framework in which US financial assistance to Israel is reduced to zero by 2038, marking an historic transition in the countries' security relationship

ZMANIM FOR PARASHAT EMOR

| Friday Night | | | Shabbat Day | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------|
| Earliest Candle Lighting | Mincha | Candle Lighting | Netz Minyan | Regular Minyan | Kriat Shema by | Early Mincha | Shiur with Rabbi Dr. Grossman | Mincha followed by Seuda Shelisheet | L'Daveed | Arvit/Shabbat Ends | Rabbenu Tam |
| 6:30pm | 6:30pm | 7:34pm | 5:58am | 8:45am | 9:24am | 3:00pm | 5:00pm | 7:05pm | 8:28pm | 8:30pm | 9:08pm |

| Shacharit | | | | Mincha/Arvit |
|-----------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| | Tallit-Tefillin | Hodu | Netz | |
| Sunday | 5:57am | 6:19am | 6:42am | 7:35pm |
| | 9:00am minyan | | | |
| Monday | 5:57am | 6:18am | 6:41am | |
| Tuesday | 5:56am | 6:18am | 6:41am | |
| Wednesday | 5:55am | 6:17am | 6:40am | |
| Thursday | 5:54am | 6:16am | 6:39am | |
| Friday | 5:53am | 6:16am | 6:39am | |

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BOCA RATON SYNAGOGUE SHTEIBEL

Your Soul Has a GPS Signal. It's Drifting Without This by Dr. Yosef Wolf

Most people think a clock measures time. It doesn't. It measures a physical process. For example, *atomic clocks on GPS satellites* define one second by counting 9,192,631,770 oscillations of a cesium-133 atom. **One microsecond of drift shifts your calculated position by 1,000 feet** (Bidikar et al., 2014). Parshas Emor commands each of us to count 49 nights of Sefiras HaOmer. Miss one and the bracha on every remaining night is stripped. If being off one microsecond can cost you 1,000 feet, what does one uncounted night cost a soul?

Over a millennium ago, the Behag (Baal Halachos Gedolos) ruled that all 49 countings form one indivisible mitzvah. The Alter Rebbe codifies this severity (Shulchan Aruch HaRav 489:10): **missing one night shatters the temimos (wholeness) the Torah demands, voiding the count.** Yet the Lubavitcher Rebbe (Likkutei Sichos, vol. 22, p. 114) reveals an unlikely connection: each night is also a standalone mitzvah, like tefillah. *Prayer fulfills its obligation the moment it is spoken, even if the answer hasn't arrived.* Each night's count operates similarly: complete as an act of service, yet incomplete as architecture until the 49th night. What's the secret to anchoring a structure where every piece is simultaneously whole and yet still dependent?

Bittul (self-nullification). The Rebbe Rashab (Kuntres Eitz HaChayim) teaches that structured avodah requires bittul before its Creator. This is the pulse rooted in the Torah's demand for counting sheva shabbasos temimos, 7 complete weeks (Vayikra 23:15). **Einstein predicted that clocks in weaker gravitational fields run faster.** GPS engineers proved his theory right: orbiting satellites gain 38 microseconds every 24 hours (Ashby, 2002). *Without constant correction, a satellite's estimate of your location drifts 10 kilometers per day.* The atomic clock does not calculate position; it anchors the calculation. Each of the 49 nights refines one middah (character trait) in 7 permutations. But without bittul tethering that refinement to its Divine source, the refinement drifts, and so does the life built upon it.

Those 9,192,631,770 oscillations do not move the satellite - they keep its signal honest. **Tonight's count does not merely measure time toward Shavuos...it recalibrates the soul.** *The Behag understood this architecture over a thousand years before the first satellite launched: one continuous signal, 49 mandatory corrections, zero tolerance for ungrounded drift. Lock in your position tonight, as every subsequent night depends on this exact moment of alignment. Spiritual GPS does not round up. The final coordinates have already been set, and every exact count brings Moshiach's signal one bar closer to full strength.*

A Private Festival Rabbi Eli Touger

Imagine celebrating Shavuos on a different day than everyone around you – not because of a mistake or ignorance, but because halachah requires it. This is not merely a theoretical concept, it is a possibility that is particularly relevant in the present age.

The idea revolves around two factors:

a) Unlike all the other festivals, the Torah does not associate the celebration of Shavuos with a specific day of the month but on the Counting of the *Omer*. The Torah commands that after counting 49 days of the *Omer*, we celebrate Shavuos on the 50th day. Although in our prayers, we refer to Shavuos as "the season of the Giving of our Torah," in the era of the *Beis HaMikdash*, Shavuos did not necessarily fall on the sixth of Sivan, the anniversary of that event. When the court would sanctify the month based on the testimony of witnesses who had sighted the new moon, Shavuos, the 50th day of the *Omer*, could also fall on the fifth of Sivan (if both Nissan and Iyar were months of 30 days) or on the seventh of the month (if both Nissan and Iyar were months of 29 days).

b) In contrast to the counting of the years for the Sabbatical Year or the Jubilee, the Counting of the *Omer* is not a communal obligation but an individual one. Every Jew must count for himself.

Now, what happens when a traveler crosses the international dateline? For example, Pesach fell on *Shabbos*. On Monday, after counting the second day of the *omer*, a person crosses the dateline, traveling from east to west (e.g., from the U.S. to Australia). On the other side of the dateline, it is Tuesday. On the next night (the night between Tuesday and Wednesday on the west side of the dateline), he is required to count the day which follows his second day of the *omer*, i.e., the third day of the *omer*, while on that day (Wednesday), all the local people will be counting the fourth day.

When is his 50th day – in other words, the day that he is obligated to celebrate Shavuos – one day after everyone else in his local surroundings?

The discussion does not end in the realm of law. The same distinction between the individual and the collective, between what we can reach through our own efforts (the refinement brought about by counting the *Omer*) and what can only come as a gift from Above (the Giving of the Torah) maps directly onto our inner life. Shavuos represents a peak in both these spheres: It follows 49 days of *sefirah*, which means both "counting" and "shining," 49 days in which we polish our characters. And it is the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah, G-d's gift to enable us to step above our limited human efforts and enter into a bond with Him.

Morning Chassidus in the Library (Mon–Fri)
6:15am with R' Levi Plotkin
8:45am with R' Eli Touger

Nightly Learning and Farbrengens
Wednesdays at 8:30pm with R' Eli Touger - 7689 Cypress Cres
Thursdays at 9:30pm with R' Yossi Winner and R' Levi Plotkin - 22169 Larkspur Trail

Support the Shtieble Minyan



Join our WhatsApp Group for updates



WOMEN'S MIDRASHA

Monday Nights in the BRS Social Hall

7:15 pm: Rebbetzin Malka Touger
Studies in the Books of the Neviim

8:15 pm: Mrs. Amy Horowitz
Jewish Ethics — Study of Pirkei Avot



Pretzel Chicken Fingers



Rebbetzin's Recipe Corner

THIS WEEK: ORLIE COHEN

Orlie and her husband Eli moved to Boca Raton, Montoya Circle, almost 24 years ago. They joined Eli's family here the "winter" of 2002. Orlie couldn't understand why anyone would want to live anywhere for the "weather". But that was before having children. As soon as they arrived, they felt super blessed to be part of the BRS family, as well as the local day schools and high schools, and knew this community was unique. And yes, the weather was a definite plus (barring the hurricanes). On a typical Shabbos, Eli enjoys going to the Chabura minyan and Orlie hates missing Rabbi Goldberg's weekly sermon. Eli and Orlie love to take advantage of the other weekly learning opportunities at BRS. They also volunteer their time at BRS as well as at other local organizations- KHDS and Chai Lifeline. They are so grateful to their Rabbis and Rebbetzins for their leadership as well as to the staff, administrators and security team at BRS for their dedication.



Growing up as the daughter of Moroccan parents I should really be posting a traditional Sephardic recipe. Hopefully Yocheved will ask me again;) For now, I have chosen my "signature" pretzel chicken fingers because many high school kids have requested them in our home on Shabbat.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ✓ 1½ lbs skinless/ boneless chicken (breast) strips (cut a little thinner than tenders but thicker than for stir fry) | ✓ ⅓-½ cup flour ✓ 2 eggs ✓ 4 Tablespoons maple syrup ✓ 1 bag 16 oz Rold Gold tiny twists pretzels | Dipping sauce: ✓ ½ cup apricot preserves ✓ 2 T soy sauce ✓ 2 T mustard ✓ 1 T sugar |
|--|--|--|

1. Crush the pretzels in the bag with a mallet (leave some bigger pieces, do not grind in Cuisinart.)
2. Coat the chicken strips with flour and shake excess off.
3. Whisk 2 eggs with 4 T maple syrup in a 9 x 13 pan. Mix the flour-coated chicken into the egg mixture so all the strips are coated.
4. Place half of the crushed pretzels in a separate dry 9x13 pan and press both sides of the chicken strips into the pretzels so the coating sticks. Set these coated strips aside in another pan. Let the strips sit in one layer until you finish coating all the strips.
5. Heat oil in a frying pan, about ¾ inch deep. Set temperature to medium heat and fry each strip on both sides until the pretzels brown (about 2 min each side).
6. Place fried pretzel chicken strips into a pan lined with paper towels to soak up the oil.
7. Serve pretzel chicken with apricot dipping sauce and enjoy.
(Note these pretzel chicken strips don't get soggy when reheating for Shabbat).

Shomer Emunim

An Introduction to the World of Kabbalah

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NEW TIME!
Tuesdays at 8:30pm in the Sephardic Beit Midrash

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For more information, please email ryk@brsonline.org




Dr. Yitzchak Belzoni at
THE BEIT MIDRASH
 OF BOCA RATON SYNAGOGUE



BRS MEN'S Afternoon Kollel



| MONDAYS IN THE SOCIAL HALL | | | WEDNESDAYS IN THE SOCIAL HALL | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| 3:00pm: Rabbi Ben Sugerman Maseches Megilla | 3:40pm: Rabbi Moshe Schochet Inspiration from the Parsha | 4:00pm: Rabbi Simcha Shabtai Halacha and Kabbalah | 3:00pm: Rabbi Rael Blumenthal Rav Kook's Oros HaTehiyah | 3:30pm: Rabbi Yehuda Willig Maseches Menachos: Inyanei Mezusa | 4:20pm: Rabbi Moshe Wolvovsky Studies in Shulchan Aruch HaRav |

For more information, contact Rabbi Simcha Shabtai at rss@brsonline.org

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7:10am: Rabbi Sugerman
brsonline.org/rbsdafyomi

After Arvit: Asher Essebag
brsonline.org/aedafyomi

8:00pm: Stuart Silverman
brsonline.org/ssdafyomi followed
by Yerushalmi Yomi at 9:10pm

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Shiur with Rabbi Goldberg at 8:30am.

Come after the 7:00am or 7:30am minyan and learn on your own, with a chavrusa, or join our Tzurba Merabanan Chabura with Mordy Goldenberg going through Hilchos Tefillah, or just come straight from the 8:00am minyan for the shiur.



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with Dr. Hillel Cohen**

Tuesdays / Thursdays in
the Senders Library after
the 7:30am minyan

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Dani Oppenheimer

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20 minutes before
Mincha in the Rand
Sanctuary.



Amud Shavui
with Rabbi Dr. Avi Oppenheimer
& Dr. Mordy Goldenberg

Thursdays at 8:15pm in the
BRS Library and via the Zoom
link posted in the Amud Shavui
Whatapp group.

For info or to join us on Whatsapp, email
aviopp@gmail.com or mordygo@gmail.com



**Dirshu Mishna
Berura Chazara**
with Dr. Eytan Austein

Shabbos Mornings
Review the
week's halachos
& hashkafos in 15
minutes at 11:00 am
in the Social Hall

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YOUNG ISRAEL of Boca Raton

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A project of Florida Chesed Network, currently hosted at Boca Raton Synagogue

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561.561.4326 • info@myfcn.org • www.myfcn.org

כאיש אחד בלב אחד
BOCA RATON
SYNAGOGUE

THIS WEEK!

THE MONTHLY
BRS Book Club
1:30pm in the Sephardic Beit Midrash for BRS members

A SEA OF UNSPOKEN THINGS
ADRIENNE YOUNG
New York Times bestselling Author of THE UNMARKING OF JUNE FARROW

THE RED HOUSE
A NOVEL
MARY MORRIS
AUTHOR OF ALL-GATEWAY TO THE MOON

HER LAST BREATH
A NOVEL
TAYLOR ADAMS
AUTHOR OF NO EXIT

May 5 June 2 July 7
Program Committee: Gigi Kaminetzky & Ruth Stuart



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

Your Voice in Israel



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND - USA & BRS ANNUAL 2026

Unity Shabbat

MAY 8-9, 2026

With Amit Segal

Chief Political Analyst, N12 News, Author & TV Personality

As chief political correspondent and commentator for one of Israel's leading news networks, Amit Segal is one of the country's most influential and closely followed voices. Get an exclusive perspective from a journalist who is shaping public discourse in real time.

and Yedidya Harush

Halutza Liaison, Negev Community Development

**Friday Night, May 8
Community Shabbat Dinner
Israel Politics ahead of the
2026 Election**

**Tickets: \$180
Children (13 and under) • \$50
RSVP Required**

**Shabbos, May 9 • 11:15 am
Remarks by Amit Segal
Is October 7 Finally Over?
A New Perspective on
Israel's Longest War**

Following services.
Open to the community.

**VIP Leadership Lunch
Private Home Following
Remarks.**

*Exclusive for Leadership Host Committee Members who give \$5,000 or more to the current campaign. Address Provided Upon Registration.

RSVP AT

www.jnf.org/bocashabbat

For tickets or to join the host committee, contact llebovich@jnf.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Chaverim of South Florida

Volunteer organization standing by 24 hours a day to help take care of the non-emergency community needs, from jump starts and flat tires to auto lockouts, house lockouts and more. Contact them at 305.330.4030. To apply to become a member, email chaverimofsf@gmail.com.



Bikur Cholim of South Palm Beach County

operates Shabbos rooms in West Boca Medical Center (call 561-488-8100) and Boca Raton Regional Hospital (M-F 561.955.3388, weekends 561.955.3430). There is also a robust Medical Gemach. Call 561.375.0740.



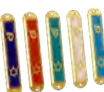
Hatzalah of South Florida

Hatzalah South Florida Emergency Medical Services is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization with a mission to improve medical outcomes and save lives. In case of medical emergency, call 305.919.4900



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Boca Raton Mezuzah Gemach

לעילוי נשמת אסתר תהלה בת ר' גבריאל פנחס
For temporary mezuzas while waiting for new ones, please contact Eli Neger, 443.422.5536, elineger@gmail.com



Air Mattress Gemach

In memory of Esther bas Yehuda (Meme) and Boruch Pertz ben Tzvi. To borrow or donate, please contact Yossi & Devorah Kahan at 561-571-1622.



Boca Raton Community Women's Mikvah

To make an appointment, please visit brmikvah.org or email admin@brmikvah.org. If you have any additional questions, call 561.394.5854



Lyon's Men's Mikvah

Open daily 4:30am-12:00pm and 12:30pm-Zman, including on Erev Shabbos and Erev Yom Tov. **To gain access to the mikvah for a single use for the price of \$6, please utilize the credit card machine located on the outside of the mikvah.**



The Segula Fund

Financial assistance for community members in connection with infertility treatments. Contact Rabbi Goldberg at reg@brsonline.org



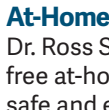
Chai Lifeline Southeast

Chai Lifeline Southeast provides social, emotional, and practical support to children, families, and communities impacted by serious illness.



BRS Networking Group

Develop business connections and growth, with Jewish values through interactions with fellow entrepreneurs and business leaders in a relaxing, social, and professional setting. Visit www.BRSNG.org



At-Home Newborn Jaundice Treatment

Dr. Ross Sommers, neonatologist, offers free at-home phototherapy treatment — a safe and effective way to lower bilirubin levels using special blue light therapy. Your baby can be treated comfortably at home. For more information, contact Hadas Sommers at (561) 929-9956.



The Boca Raton Children's Coat Gemach

Adina Moses: 561.526.6561



Shaimos

Shaimos should not be dropped off at BRS. Call Neshama Foundation to arrange for a drop off: 954.520.7414



Tehillim Circle

Founded in 1998, the entire Sefer Tehillim is recited everyday by over 75 women in their own homes for the Cholim of BRS members and their extended families. Call Judy at the Shul 561.394.0394 or text Yocheved Hande (founder) at 561.715.6185 to add a name or join our group.



Clinical Social Worker

Andrea Pittell, Outreach Coordinator at Jewish Family Services 561.852.3151 or AndreaP@Ralesjfs.org



Florida Chessed Network

Weekly distribution of Tomchei Shabbos boxes, surplus food rescue and distribution, clothing space for women and teen girls, referral & volunteer network. For more info: myfcn.org, 561.561.4326, or info@myfcn.org



Table Cloth Gemach

Contact Michal Marcus: 917.804.6924

The Ema Pearl Simcha Spot

לעילוי נשמת רוחמה פערל מלכה לאה בת אריה לייב
A Project of the BJC Sisterhood
Contact Emanuelle Lent 310-971-1565 or Leslie Gutstein 847-909-6181
The Ema Pearl Simcha Spot will help you create a beautiful and affordable simcha with an extensive collection of centerpieces, display items, tablecloths and creative decor. Schedule a visit to find the perfect pieces for your Bar / Bat Mitzvah, Bris, Sheva Brachot, Anniversary Party, Engagement Party, Siyum or any celebration.

Other Community Resources

Mohel

Rabbi Ari Brand
929.326.1626
Rabbi Yaakov Golomb
718.249.3249

Shatnez Checking

Rabbi Avraham Granat: 954.549.8649
Rabbi Yosef Davis: 713.882.3346
Rabbi Meir Palgon 786.546.9826

Sofer

Rabbi Selmar: 305.651.2747
Rabbi Binyomin Halpern: 561.562.3857

Keilim Mikvah Code: 423

WEEKLY JUNIOR!



To sponsor Shabbos morning youth programs, contact rkr@brsonline.org, or go to brsonline.org/groups
All youth programs taking place in the Jacobs and Rubin Youth & Senior Center

GROUPS THIS SHABBOS (PARSHAS EMOR)



- Early drop off starting at 9:00am: EC2-EC4 in 108, K-6th grade girls in 101, K-6th grade boys in 106
- Regular groups starting at 9:45am. (Room assignments to the right)
- Raffles in every group 1st grade and older at the end of groups for amazing prizes!!
- Remember to bring your BRS wallets to collect your BRS Bucks.

Room Assignments:

- 108: EC2-EC3
- 107: EC4-K Boys
- 106: 1st-2nd Boys
- 101: EC4-K Girls
- 102: 1st-2nd Girls
- 103: 3rd-4th Girls
2nd Floor
- 203: 3rd-4th Boys
- 204: 5th-6th Boys
- 5th-6th Girls



Shabbos Morning Children Tehillim Session

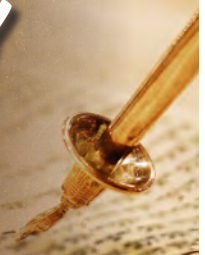
Led by Mrs. Revital Essebag
11:00-11:30am in the Boardroom with games, prizes & treats.

If your child(ren) in groups will attend, they will be escorted from groups, parents should pick up their children from the boardroom by 11:30am.

LAINING LOUDLY

with Dr. Yechiel Rosman

- 9:00-9:30 Regular Laining
- 9:30-9:45: Megillah for Bar Mitzvah-Age Boys



Moms with little ones (3 and younger) are invited to a special Shabbos morning gathering; a chance to enjoy coffee, connect with other mothers, and let the children simply play.
Shabbos Mornings In the Hadar Lounge 10:15-11:00

MAY 1



THIS WEEK AT SHABBOS GROUPS:

MOADIM MADNESS: HOLIDAY HUNT!

The Jewish holidays are all mixed up, and it's your mission to set them straight! Race, move, and compete as teams act out, guess, and organize the Moadim in the right order through exciting holiday challenges.

AVOS UBANOS

THIS SUNDAY!

May 3 | 9:15–10:00 am in the Shtiebel Beis Medrash

Sponsored this week by the Blachman family
To sponsor (\$180), contact Rabbi Rhine at rkr@brsonline.org



Incredible **PRIZES!**



Great **LEARNING!**



Awesome **BREAKFAST!**

Upcoming programs: May 17, and the Grand Raffle on May 31!
To sponsor (\$180), contact Rabbi Rhine at rkr@brsonline.org

Middle School Girls

Ice Cream and Inspiration

Wednesday, May 13

8:00–8:30pm

**In the BRS Boardroom
Led by our amazing
teen leaders!**



For more info or to sponsor,
contact R' Eli Zians at rez@brsonline.org

The CLOSET

donate with purpose, shop with dignity

Come Shop for Shavuot!
May 12, 8:00-10:00 pm at BRS
7900 Montoya Circle North, Boca Raton
From teen girls to senior women, from petite to plus. We have something for everyone!

Donations Drop-Off Locations

Boca Raton Synagogue
7900 Montoya Circle, Boca Raton
In the parking lot near the pop-up tent.

ECC Torah Academy
3881 NW 3rd Avenue, Boca Raton
Campus parking lot. Near Yagdil Torah shul gate.

The Closet accepts gently used women's and teen girls' clothing that you would confidently give to someone you care about. Clean, in good condition, and gift-worthy items only.

About The Closet

The Closet is a nonprofit community clothing space offering gently used, thoughtfully curated and high-quality women's & teen girls' clothing at very affordable prices.



Florida Chesed Network
A COMMUNITY OF KINDNESS

Allie Goldenberg • Tamar Meyer • Sarah Klajnfeld
thecloset@brsonline.org

TEEN PROGRAMS

AT BRS

For more info or to sponsor,
please contact Rabbi Eli Zians at
rez@brsonline.org



THE BRS TEEN DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
THE FIRE OF
LAG
B'OMER
FOR HIGH SCHOOL GUYS
Tuesday, May 5 at 8:15pm
at the Boca Raton Kollel
To sponsor or for more info, contact Rabbi Zians at rez@brsonline.org

BASKETBALL
PICKUP GAME
FOR HIGH SCHOOL GUYS
Sunday, May 10
8:30pm on the BRS Courts
For more info or to sponsor, please contact R' Eli Zians at rez@brsonline.org

BOCA RATON SYNAGOGUE
Rosh Chodesh Sivan
SHIUR FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
Sunday, May 17 • 8:15pm
In the BRS Boardroom
To sponsor the shiur or for more information, please contact Rabbi Eli Zians at 516 451 2123.

END YOUR WEEK ON A HIGH!
LEIL SHISHI
For High School Guys
Thursdays at 8:15pm
with Rabbi Zians
at Yeshiva of South Florida
Don't Forget the Cholent!
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Want a game of cards or a puzzle?
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Annual Tribute Evening

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026 • 10 SIVAN 5786
CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH

6:30 PM - VIP Tribute Reception

For donors \$3,600+ and Inaugural Tribute Committee members

7:00 PM - Dinner followed by program



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*Yossi Bitton is coming to the
US for a summer art exhibitions.*

**Boca Raton, FL
Wednesday, May 6th
6:00 - 10:00pm**

BRS I 7900 Montoya Circle N., Boca Raton, FL 33433

*An inspiring artistic experience Created by the renowned artist Yossi Bitton,
blending spiritual depth with contemporary beauty. Each piece tells a story - of soul,
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Summer
2026



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בס"ד



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THURSDAY, MAY 7 • 7:00PM • DAVIE, FL

Tickets: tinyurl.com/KYHSwonka

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and strengthening his home.

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i-Shine Like Esti Art for Action



Paintings by Jill Gumpfer Brannigan

I am not a professional artist—I paint simply because it brings me peace and healing.

Art often begins as something private — moments of color, silence, and feeling on a canvas. Through this initiative, I hope those moments can reach beyond my “little kitchen studio on wheels” and become something larger: an act of kindness.

Each painting sold will help support **i-Shine Like Esti**, the **afterschool program of Chai Lifeline Southeast**, an organization that helped a family very dear to me, and supported me as well. Their work brings strength, joy, and practical care to children and families navigating serious illness.

My hope is simple: to keep creating as a way of healing — because healing, for me, is still unfolding.



**Sunday, May 17, 2026
3:00-5:00 pm**
Home of Daniel & Maren Mayer
7387 London Lane
Boca Raton, 33433
Refreshments will be served.

To purchase my artwork, please make your donation via Zelle using donations@chailifeline.org and please insert in the comments: “SE Region”.



100% of your contribution goes directly to supporting I-Shine Like Esti.





Boca Raton Synagogue 2026 Annual

Journal Dinner

CELEBRATING THE LONE SOLDIERS OF
OUR COMMUNITY & THEIR FAMILIES

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Anonymous

Dinner Chairs:

Debbie & Simcha Firestone • Arielle & Aryeh Kieffer • Margo & Yechiel Rosman



Boca Raton Synagogue 2026 Annual

Journal Dinner

**CELEBRATING THE LONE SOLDIERS OF
OUR COMMUNITY & THEIR FAMILIES**

**Mazel Tov to our Honorees, David & Joyce Muller and Dr. Akiva & Leorah Marcus
Thank you to our incredible dinner chairs, Debbie & Simcha Firestone, Arielle & Aryeh Kieffer, and
Margo & Yechiel Rosman for all their hard work in making this year's Journal Dinner a huge success!**



See more photos at brsonline.org/photo-gallery

Thank you to Menachem Serraf and Serraf Studio photography for the dinner pictures.
561-961-9713 info@serrafstudio.com



LOOK WHO'S COMING TO BRS THIS YEAR!



R' Eli Stefansky
Founder, Mercaz Daf Yomi
AUGUST 4



Yosef Karduner
Music Superstar
AUGUST 21



Chazan Shim Craimer
World-Famous Chazan
SEPTEMBER 27



Rabbi Mordechai Willig
Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS
OCTOBER 26



Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveitchik
Intellectual & Thought Leader
NOVEMBER 1



Ohad Domb
Jerusalem-Based TV and Film Producer
NOVEMBER 13



Rabbi Daniel Glatstein
Maggid Shiur & Author
NOVEMBER 15



Rabbanit Noa Lewis
IDF Women's Chevra Kadisha
NOVEMBER 18



Hillel Neuer
Founder & Director, UN Watch
NOVEMBER 22



Eli Beer
Founder & Director, United Hatzalah
NOVEMBER 29



Rabbi Dovid'l Weinberg
Educator & Musician
DECEMBER 4



Rabbi Moshe Taragin
Ra"m, Har Etzion
DECEMBER 6



Hillel Fuld
Online Advocate for Israel
DECEMBER 9



Bar Kupershtein
Former Hostage in Gaza
DECEMBER 22



Gad Elbaz
Jewish Music Superstar
DECEMBER 22



Harry Rothenberg
Partner, Rothenberg Law Firm LLP
DECEMBER 27



Mrs. Dina Schoonmaker
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DECEMBER 27



Yael Leibowitz
Scholar & Educator
JANUARY 7



Avital Gastwirth
Author & Educator
JANUARY 12



Rav Hershel Schachter
Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS
JANUARY 17



Orit Mark Ettinger
Israel Advocacy Activist
JANUARY 17



Loay Alshareef
Saudi Peace Activist & Blogger
JANUARY 27



Rabbi Daniel Kalish
Menahel, Mesivta of Waterbury
JANUARY 30



Jackie Bitton
Inspirational Speaker
JANUARY 31



Adam Hasner
President, Florida Atlantic University
FEBRUARY 3



Rabbi Moshe Miller
Author and Educator
FEBRUARY 8



Rabbi Yaakov & Rebbetzin Peshi Neuberger
Rav & Rebbetzin, Cong. Beth Abraham, Bergenfield, NJ
FEBRUARY 7



Sasha Troufanov & Sapir Cohen
Former Hostages in Gaza
FEBRUARY 18



Dr. Shaina Trapedo
Faculty, Stern College for Women
FEBRUARY 21



Rabbi Yosef Zvi Rimon
Chief Rabbi, Gush Etzion
FEBRUARY 21



R' Sruly Bornstein
Lakewood Daf Yomi
MARCH 1



Simcha Leiner
Jewish Music Superstar
MARCH 1



Rabbi Chaim Leibish Rottenberg
The Admur of Forshay
MARCH 14



Eli Sharabi
Former Hostage in Gaza
MARCH 18



Rabbi Avraham Schorr
Mechaber Sefarim and Rav, Nezer Gedalyahu
MARCH 22



Rabbi Yaakov Danishefsky, LCSW
Therapist and Author
MARCH 24



Rabbi Nissan Kaplan
Rosh Yeshiva, Da'as Aaron
MARCH 29



Rabbi Eli Belizon
Rebbe, Yeshiva University
APRIL 1



Rabbi Aryeh Cohen
Rebbe, DRS High School for Boys
APRIL 25



Amit Segal
Israel Political Analyst
MAY 8

AND MANY MORE TO COME!

See the full list at brsonline.org/speakers

To sponsor a visiting speaker, contact Rabbi Moskowitz at rpm@brsonline.org

BRS YOM YERUSHALAYIM

A festive, family-friendly concert to recognize & honor these special members of our community.

ALIYAH CONCERT

FEATURING ARYEH KUNSTLER
Renowned Singer & Guitarist



Celebrating the members of the BRS Community making Aliyah to Israel!

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rochel Berman | Tamar Cohn | Matthew & Tova Hocherman | Eitan & Shula Hochster | Netasha & Baruch Len | Rabbi Zev & Kira Rhine |
| Yossi & Chana Rutman | Gil & Lysee Stein | Rabbi Perry & Miriam Tirschwell | Dr. Ashi & Chava Weisstuch | Rabbi Matan & Yaffi Wexler | |

**List in formation. If you or your family are making Aliyah to Israel, please contact Judy in the shul office at 561.394.0394 or office@brsonline.org.*

Thursday, May 14 6:30pm at BRS



Co-sponsored by Phil & Shelley Stein and Harry & Sherry Friedman in honor of the upcoming Aliyah of Gil & Lysee Stein & family. May you and all of the BRS Olim be blessed with hatzlacha, joy, and a true sense of home in this new chapter.



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Get your teams together for a night of fun, friends, food, healthy competition at

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Multimedia Trivia Competition

SIGN UP AS A TEAM OF 8 OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL TO BE PLACED ON A TEAM

& Buffet Dinner

Sunday, May 10 • 7:30pm

brsonline.org/trivia

\$54/person | Sponsorship opportunities available

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Event chairs: Elie Mendelson and Jason Zangre