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OHEL DAVID EASTERN SYNAGOGUE

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**Shabbat - Behar,**

Sat. 24 - 25 May 2019 - 20th of Iyyar, 5779 -

כ"ב באייר תשע"ט

**שבת פ' בהר - פרקי אבות - פרק ד'**

Issue Number 899

Baal Koreh	Mr Jacob Oved	(Page - 696).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Rabbi Asher Sebbag (Pres. by Meir O. Carmelli)	(Page - 1177).

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit.	18:45
Shabbat Candles.	20:43
Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 8:20).	08:30
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	19:20
Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shlishit. (Sunset - 20:59).	20:20
Arbit Motzei Shabbat.	22:09
Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 07:30).	06:30
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	18:30
Mincha & Arbit.	19:15
Next Friday: Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit.	19:00
Next Friday: Candles. <b>Shabbat. Bechukotai</b>	20:58

**Behar** 5779 (Leviticus 25:1-26:2)

May 19, 2019 | by Rabbi Kalman Packouz

**GOOD MORNING!** According to Jewish cosmology, the day begins with nightfall. That is why all holidays start at night after the stars can be seen. Wednesday night, May 22nd, begins the holiday of Lag B'Omer. You may have seen advertisements for picnics from synagogues and JCCs.

**Lag B'Omer** is the 33rd day of the Omer, the period between Pesach and Shavuot. On this day the plague which was killing Rabbi Akiva's disciples stopped. It is also the yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, the author of the Zohar, the Kabbalah, the book of Jewish Mysticism. Tradition has it that the day of his demise was filled with a

great light of endless joy through the secret wisdom which he revealed to his students in the Zohar.

**In Israel** there are huge bonfires across the country. From Pesach onwards, the children gather fallen branches and build pyres often 20 and 30 feet high. Then as the sky grows dark, they are lit and the sky is filled with flames -- and smoke. (I have often wondered what the reaction is to the pictures from the US and Russian Spy satellites.)

**The fires** are symbolic both of the light of wisdom Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai brought into the world and as a "yahrzeit candle" to the memory of his passing. Haircuts and weddings take

place on this date and there is much festivity including dancing, singing and music.

**Why the name Lag B'Omer?**  
Every Hebrew letter has a numerical value.

An *aleph* = 1, a *bet* = 2 and so forth. The two Hebrew letters *lamed* (30) and *gimmel* (3) = 33. So *Lag* (spelled *lamed gimmel* in Hebrew) *B'Omer* means the 33rd day of the Omer. [The word "*Omer*" literally means "sheaf" and refers to the offering of the barley sheaf in the Temple on the second day of Pesach marking the harvesting of the barley crop. From that day until Shavuot (the anniversary of the giving of the Torah and the Festival of the Harvest) is called the period of the Counting of the Omer. It is a time for reflection upon how we view and treat our fellow Jews and what we can learn from the tragedies that have befallen us because of unfounded hatred for our fellow Jews.

**For more** on Lag B'Omer, I direct you to [AishAudio.com](http://AishAudio.com) as well as [Aish.com/h/o](http://Aish.com/h/o) for articles including -- Kabbalah and Lag B'Omer, The Mystery of Lag B'Omer, Whispering Flames: The Fire of Lag B'Omer, Lag B'Omer: Remembering Rabbi Shimon.

### **Three Rules For Success**

1. Initiative -- You have to try.

2. Perseverance -- You have to keep trying.

3. The Almighty smiles upon your efforts.

**My father** likes to quip that "The harder you work, the luckier you get." Luck is where preparation meets opportunity. Our Torah teaches that telling yourself "I can't" is a big mistake. If the Almighty would help you, would you be able to do it? He is there and will help. Remember: One person and the Almighty make a majority!

**Telling** yourself "I don't feel like doing it" is another big mistake. One should do what his soul wants (accomplishment, meaning) and not what his body desires (comfort). Don't confuse body messages for messages of the soul! And if the decision and the effort needed for success are too painful, here are:

### **Seven Excuses for Giving Up**

1. We've never done it that way.
2. We're not ready for that, yet.
3. We're doing all right without it.
4. We tried it once and it didn't work out.
5. It costs too much.
6. That's not our responsibility.
7. It won't work.



### **TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK**

### **Behar, Leviticus 25:1 -26:2**

**The Torah** portion begins with the laws of Shemithah, the Sabbatical

year, where the Jewish people are commanded to not plant their fields or tend to them in the seventh year. Every 50th year is the Yovel, the Jubilee year, where agricultural activity is also proscribed.

**These** two commandments fall into one of the seven categories of evidence that God gave the Torah. If the idea is to give the land a rest, then the logical plan would be to not plant one-seventh of the land each year. To command an agrarian society to completely stop cultivating all farm lands every 7th year, one has to be either God or a *meshugenah* (crazy). No sane group of editors would include such an "insane" commandment in a set of laws for the Jewish people; only God could command it and ensure the survival of the Jewish people for following it.

**Also included** in this portion: redeeming land which was sold, to strengthen your fellow Jew when his economic means are faltering, not to lend to your fellow Jew with interest, the laws of indentured servants. The portion ends with the admonition to not make idols, to observe the Shabbat and to revere the Sanctuary.

\* \* \*

## **Dvar Torah**

*based on Growth Through Torah by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin*

**The Torah** states:

"When you come to the land which I give you, the land shall rest, a rest for the Almighty" (Leviticus 25:2).

**Why is** having the land rest ... "for the Almighty"?

**Rabbi Yeruchem Levovitz** of the Mirrer Yeshiva cites the Raavad (Introduction to Baalai Nefesh) that a fundamental principle behind the commandments is that "they are to remind us constantly that we have a Creator who is our Ruler." The Almighty gave us this earth, but after using the earth for some time a person can mistakenly think that the earth belongs to him; he can forget that the Almighty is the real owner.

**Therefore,** there are commandments which contain restrictions to show that the Creator is above us. For this reason, said Rav Yeruchem, the Torah stresses in this verse that the commandment to rest on the seventh year applies to the land which the Almighty gave us. The Almighty gave us a commandment to refrain from work on the land on the seventh year to help us internalize the awareness that He is the true boss of the earth.

**This is** also the lesson we learn from the weekly Shabbat, said Rav Yeruchem. It shows a person that the Almighty is the one who gives him the power to work on the other days of the week. This is a weekly reminder that we have a Ruler who is our ultimate Authority.



Shabbat Shalom,  
*Kalman*  
Rabbi Kalman  
Packouz

**Mazel tov to:** Betty and Asaad Cohen on the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son Elan.

**Dear all:** we would like to start Sunday breakfast after Shahrit 08:30, please approach Ghassan, David or Adel to confirm your attendance, we will notify you when we start.

**Dear all:** It is a Jewish tradition to have flowers in a Jewish home to celebrate Shabbat and our Jewish Hagim. Following the success of last year's flower demonstration before Shavuot, we asked the Rebbetzin to give another evening of flower arrangement demonstration, on Wednesday the 5th of June, 2 Sivan 5779 time 19.30, at Ohel David Synagogue, £10.00 pp Follows by refreshments. You can book by calling Chava on 07751 434797.

**Stone setting:** Reuben Farag ben Eliyahu Rahamim Twena ל"ז, stone setting will take place on Sunday the 2nd of June at 9:00am, Edgwarebury Cemetery.

**Stone setting:** Shaoul Imzayin ל"ז, stone setting will take place on Sunday the 2nd of June at 10:00am, Edgwarebury Cemetery.

**Ladies Gallery:** We are starting the plan for Ladies Gallery and we need your support, you can call Ghassan, David or Moshe for any update.

**Dear All:** A Hachnasat Sefer Torah is a celebration that centres on the dedication of a new Torah scroll. The family of our president Ghassan Cohen together with his brothers and sisters are dedicating a new Sefer Torah and Sefer Haftarah in the memory of their late Father **Naim** ben Gourgi Hacoheh ל"ז and their Mother **Sadia** bat Leah ע"ה, to Ohel David Eastern Synagogue, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019, (bank holiday Monday). at 16:00 Hr, starting from Munks Beth Hamedrash 9 The Ridings, Golders Green, London NW11 8HL (opposite Carmelli Bakery). This will be followed by walking with music and celebrations towards Ohel David Eastern Synagogue Hall 4-15 Broadwalk Lane, Golders Green, London NW11 8HD. We look forward to seeing you.

**Kolel every Sunday:** We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"  
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

01 Iyar Miss Florence David	12 Iyar Mr Meir Fattal
01 Iyar Mrs Bekhor	15 Iyar Mrs Esther Silas
04 Iyar Mrs Annie Benjamin	18 Iyar Mr Saul Ceasar Hannuna
06 Iyar Mr Abraham S. Cohen	19 Iyar Mr Abraham S. Cohen
08 Iyar Mr Joseph Laniado	26 Iyar Mrs Tiba David
12 Iyar Mr Harry Fattal	29 Iyar Mr Charles Benaiah
12 Iyar Mr Jack Fattal	

Quote of the Week

**Winners are not people who never fail,  
but people who never quit**