

# Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



## Zmanim

*In light of the recent events in Israel and the ground invasion in Gaza we will be saying tehillim 15 minutes before Mincha today.*

*Tehillim for Israel: 6:45 pm & 8:20 pm*

*Early Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 7:00 pm*

*Candle Lighting: 8:31 pm*

*Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 8:35 pm*

*Shacharis: 8:45 am*

*Pirkei Avos Shiur: 7:30 pm*

*Mincha/Seudas Shlishis: 8:20 pm*

*Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 9:38 pm*

*Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 10:00 pm*

## Parshas Maasei

Adapted from Rabbi Mordechai Kaminetsky

In this week's parsha we read about the cities of refuge. A man who kills someone accidentally is exiled to an Ir Miklat, a city of refuge. In addition to killers, a very distinguished group of people, the Leviim, lived in those cities. Their job was something similar to today's Rabbis. They traveled throughout Israel, teaching and preaching. The Leviim would return to their homes and neighbors, people who killed through carelessness, who were convicts of sorts. They played an integral role in the killer's rehabilitation. The sentence imposed on the killers was also very unique. It was not defined by time, but rather by circumstance. The killers would go free only when the Kohen Gadol would die. The Gemara in Makos tells us that the Kohen Gadol's family members were quite worried. They were not concerned that there would be an assassination plot against the Kohen Gadol's life. They were worried that the convicts would pray that the Kohen Gadol would die before his due time, thus releasing them early. In order to dissuade them, the mother of the Kohen Gadol would distribute food and clothing to the inmates to deter them from praying that her son die.

It is hard to understand. Are there no loved ones waiting for these outcasts with food and clothing to be offered upon release? Were the Kohen Gadol's mother's gifts worth exile in the city of refuge? How did these gifts work as bribes?

Reb Aryeh Levine took it upon himself to visit Jewish inmates, mostly members of the Irgun, held under British rule prior to Israel's statehood. He became like a father to those prisoners, bringing them food, clothes and love. For years, despite sweltering heat and frigid rains, he never missed a Shabbos visit, save one.

Once, in the midst of a Shabbos service, a very excited messenger called him out of the prison. Reb Aryeh's daughter had become paralyzed and the doctors were helpless. He was needed for support at home, immediately. After the Shabbos, an Arab messenger was sent by the concerned inmates to inquire what tragedy interrupted the weekly visit.

The next Shabbos, despite the enduring tragedy at home, the Rabbi went to the prison as though everything was fine. Normally during the Torah reading, prisoners would pledge a few coins to charity. This week the donations were far different. "I will give up a week of my life for the sake of Reb Aryeh's daughter," the first convict pledged. Another prisoner announced that he would give a month from his. Each one called to the Torah upped the

previous pledge until the last prisoner cried out, "what is our life compared to Reb Aryeh's anguish? I will give all my remaining days for the sake of the Rabbi's daughter."

At this unbelievable display of love and affection, Reb Aryeh broke down and wept.

Miraculous as it may sound, that Saturday night Reb Aryeh's daughter began to move and within days was fully recovered. The cities of refuge were not jails, nor were they mere detention camps. They were environments in which reckless people became aware that careless actions have serious ramifications. They were constantly under the influence of their neighbors, the Levitim. They would observe them pray, learn, and teach others. They would see the epitome of awareness and care for fellow beings.

The mission of the Kohen Gadol's mother was not just to distribute food. It was to develop a bond with those people whose carelessness spurred a death. They saw the

love a parent had for her son as she subconsciously plead with the inmates to spare her child. They saw how a total stranger, despite her great esteem, would make sure that their needs in the city of refuge were cared for. They may have even thought of the loved one they killed and his family.

After developing an awareness of life, they would never be able to pray for the death of anyone, even if it meant their own freedom. In fact, they, like Reb Aryeh's prisoners, may have offered their years for the merit of the Kohen Gadol.

The Torah can not punish without teaching and rehabilitating. It infuses a love for life and spirituality into former careless killers. Its goal is to mold a new person whose attitudes will cause him to be kinder, gentler, and a lot more careful.

**Good Shabbos**

**Mazel Tov To Aryah and Faige Lebovic on the birth of a great grandson.**

**This week's Kiddush is sponsored by:**

**Mr. & Mrs. Hirsch Michel Chinn in honour of their visit to Toronto.**

**Mr. & Mrs. Avraham & Chaya Engel in honour of a yahrzeit.**

**The kid's program will take place downstairs this week.**

**The Rav's Pirkei Avos Shiur will take place at 7:30 pm.**

**The Sunday Morning Discussion will take place following Shacharis at 8:45 am.**

**If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email [gabbai@agudahsouth.com](mailto:gabbai@agudahsouth.com) or contact one of the gabbaim.**

<b>Shacharis</b>	<b>Weekday Schedule</b>	<b>Mincha</b>
Sunday: 8:00 am		8:30 pm
Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am & 7:55 am		<b>Maariv</b>
Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:00 am & 8:00 am		8:50 pm
Daf Yomi with Rabbi Kaufman: 8:00 am (Shabbos), 7:15 am (Sun), 7:40 am (Mon-Fri)		
Amud Yomi with Rabbi Rafi Greenspan: 7:20 am (Mon-Fri)		

To sponsor Kiddush/Seudas Shlishis contact Leon Jakubovic ([kiddush@agudahsouth.com](mailto:kiddush@agudahsouth.com).)

Have a Simcha to announce? Email announcements to [mailings@agudahsouth.com](mailto:mailings@agudahsouth.com).

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## **Join our Kehillah today!**

To find out more about memberships, associate memberships, & other sponsorship opportunities please email [mailings@agudahsouth.com](mailto:mailings@agudahsouth.com).

## **Reserve a Locker**

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the shul and renovation of the social hall we are planning on replacing the lockers in the basement. Lockers will be available to all members on a first come first serve basis for a \$40 annual fee. If you are interested in reserving a locker please email [mailings@agudahsouth.com](mailto:mailings@agudahsouth.com).