

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



Zmanim

Candle Lighting: 4:28 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 4:30 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Hilchos Shabbos Shiur: 4:00 pm

Mincha/SEUDAS SHLISHIS: 4:20 pm

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 5:31 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 5:58 pm

Parshas Vayechi

Adapted from Rabbi Yissochar Frand [www.torah.org]

One Does Not Abandon "Mama"

Yaakov Avinu tells Yosef "When I came from Paddan, Rochel died on me in the land of Canaan on the road, while there was just a small measure of land to go to Efras; and I buried her there on the road to Efras, which is Beis Lechem" [Bereshis 48:7]. Rashi elaborates that Yaakov is justifying himself to his son, after having asked him to go through the effort of taking his remains back to Eretz Yisrael: "Don't think I was lazy and that is the reason I did not bring your mother Rochel to the Me'aras HaMachpelah for burial. I could have done it. You should know that it was based on Divine command that I buried her there, so that she should be of aid to her children when Nebuzaradan would exile them and they would pass through by way of her tomb, Rochel would go out on to her grave and weep and seek mercy for them. As it says, 'A voice is heard in the heights...' and the Holy One Blessed is He answers her 'There is reward for your act, says Hashem ... and children shall return to their borders.' [Yirmiyahu 31:14-16]"

Rochel is referred to as "Mama Rochel". Klal Yisrael would cry out to their mother on their way to exile. Rochel would in turn cry out to the Almighty who would hear her cries and promise her that her children would ultimately return from exile.

In the autobiography of Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, former Chief Rabbi of Israel, he tells the following very interesting story:

Rabbi Lau writes that he had a relationship with Yitzchak Rabin, the former Prime Minister of the State of Israel. He also writes that he once travelled to Cuba and met with the President of Cuba for 3 hours (between 2:00 am and 5:00 am, according to Castro's custom for meeting dignitaries). At the end of the meeting, Castro gave Rabbi Lau a box of Cuban cigars that he asked him to deliver personally to Yitzchak Rabin. Rabbi Lau returned to Israel, called up Rabin and told him he had a box of cigars from Fidel Castro for him. Rabin told him he did not smoke cigars, only cigarettes, but at least it was an interesting story.

At any rate, Rabbi Lau writes that he was able, at least to a certain extent, to have an influence on Yitzchak Rabin on a crucial matter. When the State of Israel was negotiating one of their agreements with the Palestinians following the "Oslo Accords," the question came up regarding what should be done with Bais Lechem. Bais Lechem is of course a Palestinian city, but Kever Rochel is right there. In the agreement that they negotiated, the Israelis insisted that Kever Rochel remain under Jewish control.

There is a 500 yards long road from Gilo (the Jerusalem neighborhood closest to Bais Lechem) to Kever Rochel. The Palestinians were insisting that their soldiers

control that road. In other words, Kevever Rochel itself would remain under Israeli control but the Palestinians would control the road to it. Rabin signed off on this agreement. There was much concern in certain Israeli circles that if control of the road would be given to the Palestinians, it would not be safe to travel to Kevever Rochel.

Rabbi Lau met with Rabin and told him, "I know you do not like to renege on an agreement, but you must insist that Israel retains control of the road and can guarantee safe access for Jews to Kevever Rochel. Rabin, who was a secular Jew, could not understand all the fuss about

Rochel's burial site. Rabbi Lau told him "It is because Rochel is our Mama and one does not abandon his mother!"

These words of the Chief Rabbi moved Rabin, and at the following Sunday's cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister announced his revised position on the matter. It was because of this moving plea of Rabbi Lau "One does not abandon his mother" that until this day Jews still have access and still come to cry and pray in large numbers at Kevever Rochel, a short distance away from Bais Lechem.

Good Shabbos

**** To ensure accurate publication of all announcements and sponsorships, **
****information must be submitted to mailings@agudahsouth.com **
****prior the publication deadline of 10:00 am on Friday morning.********

**This week's kiddush is sponsored by:
**Rabbi & Mrs. Kaufman in honour of the Chassan Torah.
Avram & Suzie Lebovic in honour of a yahrzeit.****

The kids' program will take place downstairs beginning at 9:30 am.

**The guest speaker for Seudas Shlishis is TBD.
Seudas Shlishis is sponsored by the shul.**

**We are updating the cholim list for Chodesh Teves.
**If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email
gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one of the gabbaim.****

Shacharis	Weekday Schedule	Mincha
Sunday: 8:00 am & 9:00 am		12:40 pm & 4:35 pm
Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am & 7:55 am		Maariv
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:00 am & 8:00 am		4:55 pm & 8:00 pm (Mon-Thur)
	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 Baruch Klein (kiddush@agudahsouth.com.)
 Have a Simcha to announce? Email announcements to mailings@agudahsouth.com.
 To subscribe or unsubscribe to the email bulletin please email mailings@agudahsouth.com.

Chumash Ramban Shiur

**The Rav's Chumash Ramban Shiur will take place Thursdays @ 8:30 pm
 at the Kaufman Residence, 15 Reddick Court.**

Hilchos Shabbos Shiur

The Rav's Hilchos Shabbos Shiur will take place on Shabbos 20 minutes before Mincha.

Friday Night Learning Program (FNL)

The Friday Night learning program will take place this week.

Learning Seder : 8:00 pm

Or Hachaim/Esoteric Mefarshim shiur: 8:30 pm

FNL is sponsored by Tzadok & Shoshi Eliyahu.