

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



Zmanim

Candle Lighting: 4:40 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 4:40 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Hilchos Shabbos Shiur: 4:10 pm

Mincha/**SEUDAS SHLISHIS**: 4:30 pm

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 5:44 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 6:11 pm

Sunday Shacharis: 8:00 am & 9:00 am

Parshas Va'eira

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

Attitude of Gratitude

Hashem said to Moshe, "Say to Aharon, take your staff..." (7:19)

Rashi (ad loc) quoting the Midrash Tanchuma, explains that Aharon needed to enact the first two plagues which directly affected the Nile River. This is because the Nile had protected Moshe from Egyptian slaughter when he was child and set adrift in a basket.

Similarly, we find that by the third plague, in which the ground became infested with lice, that Moshe wasn't the one to bring it about because the earth had protected him when he buried the Egyptian that he had "illegally" executed. As the Midrash points out: Reb Tanchum said, Hashem told Moshe "the sand that protected you when you struck the Egyptian could not be struck by you" (Shemos Rabbah 10:7). In other words, the ground hid his misdeed therefore it wasn't appropriate for Moshe to inflict the earth with a plague of lice.

We find another instance of "Hakoras Hatov," recognizing a kindness done for you, toward the end of Moshe's life. HaShem had commanded Moshe to attack the Midianites for their seduction of B'nei Yisroel into immorality and idol worship, yet Moshe sent Pinchas to lead the charge. The Midrash Tanchuma (Bamidbor Matos 3) explains that it wasn't fitting for Moshe to lead the charge against the Midianites because he "grew up" in Midian and "one should not cast a stone into a well he has drunk from."

Gratitude and Hakoras Hatov are core values of Judaism as we must appreciate everything that HaShem has done for us. We constantly affirm this through Teffilos and Brochos; thinking we do so because we "owe" gratitude. Yet this cannot be the sole reason for giving appreciation and thanks. If that were the case than why can Moshe not strike the Nile and the land? You cannot owe thanks to an inanimate object. Furthermore, HaShem doesn't "need" our grati-

tude; so what is the purpose?

It is a well-known tenet of Jewish philosophy that HaShem created the world to give mankind the ultimate good; a relationship with Him. This relationship is an expression of HaShem's love for us. The real purpose in giving Hakoras Hatov is to recognize within ourselves that someone cares about us and loves us. That tangible feeling of being loved affirms who we are and gives us strength. In other words, the greatest beneficiary of giving thanks is the one giv-

ing it because you are recognizing the value of your very existence. The reason we don't throw stones into a well that we benefited from and why Moshe couldn't hit the Nile or ground is because they were all acting as agents of Hashem and his love.

Recognizing the good that is done for us is the beginning of understanding the very reason why we were created; for our own good.

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.**

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

**The guest speaker for Seudas Shlishis is Abe Rzepkowitz.
Seudas Shlishis is sponsored by Abe & Vera Rzepkowitz
in honour of the yahrzeit of Vera's mother OB" M.**

The cholim list is being updated for Chodesh Shevat. 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		12:45 pm & 4:50 pm
Monday: 6:50 am & 7:50 am		Maariv
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:00 am & 8:00 am		5:10 pm & 8:00 pm (Mon-Thur)
Thursday: 7:00 am & 7:55 am		
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.

Join our Kehillah today!

To find out more about memberships, associate memberships, & other sponsorship opportunities please email mailings@agudahsouth.com.

Have a Simcha to announce?

To ensure that your Mazel Tov is announced and/or distributed, please email the details to mailings@agudahsouth.com.

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
FNL is sponsored by Danny & Bruria Frances.**

Shovavim Shiurim

**The Rav's Shovavim Shiurim will take place Wednesday's at 8:30 pm (January 6, 13, 29).
Topics: Hilchos Niddah and General Sholom Bayis Discussion.**