

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



Zmanim

Early Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 6:20 pm

Candle Lighting: 7:41 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 7:45 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

PIRKEI AVOS SHIUR: 6:40 pm

Mincha/Seudas Shlishis: 7:30 pm

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 8:47 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 9:09 pm

Parshas Shoftim

Adapted from Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky

The Torah not only tells us how to live our lives and where to go, in this week's parsha it tells us how to get there as well! First the Torah tells us about a man who was negligent and accidentally killed someone. We are to establish cities of refuge where he can flee and live until he can return home. "You shall separate three cities for yourselves in the midst of your Land, which Hashem, your G-d, gives you to possess it" (Devarim 19:2). But the Torah does more than tell us to build cities of refuge. In an unprecedented command, it establishes a highway commission, telling us, "Prepare the way for yourself,...and it shall be for any murderer to flee there (ibid v.3)

Rashi quotes the Gemara in Makos that there were signs posted at each crossroad pointing and declaring, "Refuge! Refuge!" each pointing the way to the nearest refuge city.

But, why? If road signs should be erected, shouldn't they be for Yerushalayim, guiding the thousands of tri-annual travelers from the north and south who journeyed there for the shalosh regalim? Why should cities that house manslaughter offenders, get guideposts while the holiest city of Eretz Yisroel doesn't? Rav Meir Shapiro, established one of Europe's most prestigious Yeshivos of its era. The Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin, not only housed a magnificent Bais Medrash, it had a spacious dormitory

and dining hall. Its fine accommodations would spare Yeshiva boys the embarrassment of having to eat teg, virtually begging for meals in the homes of wealthier business people.

But in order for the students not to plead, Rabbi Shapiro did. And so he traveled around the globe, crossing the ocean to the US and Canada, to raise funds for the beautiful Yeshiva. In fact, he even served as a cantor in a prestigious North American congregation in lieu of a one thousand dollar gift to the Yeshiva. On a visit to the office of a prominent businessman, one who had strayed from the path paved in Europe by his parents and grandparents, Rabbi Shapiro was asked an unusual question.

"Rabbi," the industrialist proposed, "why is it that you have to see so many Jews to accomplish your goal? If Hashem wanted your Yeshiva to flourish, why didn't He arrange that you meet just one philanthropist who will undertake the entire project, by adding a few zeros to the amount of his check? After all," continued the magnate. There are plenty of modern institutions in the US that have been established by one benefactor!" Rabbi Shapiro smiled. "Let me explain: Hashem not only wants that the Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin should thrive, he wants as many people in America as possible to know what is happening there as well! Had one man given me a check, and I would have taken the next boat back, I never would be talking to you about Yiddishkeit, about your heritage, your past, and your future! Now however, I meet hun-

dreds of Jews who have heard about the tremendous love for Torah that our students have. They have heard the beauty of their mission and their devotion to the cause of learning Torah. They know what Tractate we are studying and how we apply Torah to everyday life.

Some ask about the size of the building and all about the Sifrei Torah that will be place in the Aron Kodesh. When someone with a single check endows a music hall, nobody else gets involved in its development and its intricate details become the obsession of individuals, not the shared responsibility of a community! So there is no excitement, no involvement, no buzz! You can't build enthusiasm in that manner. Imagine the scene: A man kills accidentally; he has to flee to the city of refuge. He does not know where the city is. He knocks on a door. "Hello," he exclaims to the startled homeowner, "I just killed someone, umâ€¦ accidentally. Do you know where the Ir Miklat is?"

Anxiety, depression and even despair is fostered. The buzz is bad. There are murderers loose. And when they inform the public, often enough of their misdeeds, it sets

an apathetic tone, where reckless manslaughter becomes the norm. The shock of death is dulled, and it becomes part of the repertoire of the urban experience. And wanton disregard becomes contagious. And the virus of sin spreads rapidly. And so the signs are set and the directions are clear and the murderers flee taking refuge in clearly marked cities, no questions asked, at least until the situation is adjudicated.

On the other hand, take the trip to Jerusalem: The city with no directional advisories. Imagine: There is a crossroad. There is no sign. One must knock on a door. "Excuse me, do you know how to get to Jerusalem?" "Oh! You are going to Yerushalayim?" the person declares and asks in unison. "Maybe you can wait, I'll come along!" "Perhaps you can shlep this small package for my son in Yeshiva there!" Oh! You are going to Jerusalem! When is Yom Tov? It is time for me to make my preparations as well! When people have to share the good queries there is excitement, tumult, even spirituality in the air! And it becomes contagious for the 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.********

**Mazel tov to Heshi & Bayla Kuhnreich on the engagement of
 their son Eli to Adina Zauderer.**

Mazel Tov to the proud grandparents, David & Goldie Richler.

**The shul extends condolences to Mrs. Betty Spiro & Mrs. Buki Marmorstein Handelsman
 for the loss of their father and husband, Mr. Yisroel Handelsman OB"M.**

The kids' program will take place downstairs this week.

The Rav's Pirkei Avos Shiur will take place at 6:40 pm this week.

The guest speaker for Seudas Shlishis will be R' Moshe Kaufman.

The Sunday Morning Discussion is will take place this week after Shacharis.

**We are updating the cholim list for Chodesh Elul/Tishrei.
 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		7:40 pm
Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am & 7:55 am		Maariv
Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:00 am & 8:00 am		8:00 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.)

Have a Simcha to announce? Email announcements to mailings@agudahsouth.com.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this list 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.

Reserve a Locker

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the shul and renovation of the social hall we have replaced the lockers in the basement. There are still some lockers remaining. For more information please email mailings@agudahsouth.com.