

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **Friday, February 28:** Rosh Chodesh Adar
- **Wednesday-Thursday, March 5-6:** Annual Campaign!
- **Friday, March 7:** Last Day of Friday Winter Schedule
- **Thursday, March 13:** Taanis Esther - 3:15 Dismissal
- **Friday, March 14:** Purim - No School
- **Wednesday- Thursday, March 19-20:** Simcha Retreat - details coming soon

MAZAL TOVS:

- Mazal Tov to Rivkah Tkatch, 12th grade, and family on the engagement of her sister, Ruti!
- Mazal Tov to the 10th and 11th Grade Bkuis classes on their completion of Sefer Daniel!
- Mazal Tov to the 12th Grade Bkuis class on the completion of Sefer Shmuel, Chelek Alef.

CONDOLENCES:

- We wish our condolences to Rabbi Doron Silverman and the entire family on the loss of his grandfather.

ALL THE HOSTAGES

504

ARE IN OUR HEARTS &
TEFILOS.

PLEASE CONSIDER SAYING PEREK
140 OF TEHILLIM AS A ZECHUS
FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS.

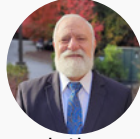
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From the Desk of Rabbi Avraham Shapiro



Much of this week's Parshas Mishpatim deals with the laws of אדם לחברו, situations that arise having to do with our involvement with our fellow human beings. Many of these laws deal with cases where one person causes damage to another and how to resolve them. In the language of our Sages these rules and regulations are referred to a דיני נזיקין, the laws of damages.

There is an interesting Gemara that states: "Rav Yehuda said, 'If one wants to be a Chassid, a saintly person, then study the Laws of Damages.' Rava said, 'Study the the Ethics of Our Fathers (Pirkei Avos)' and some say, 'Study the Laws of Brachos.'"

The Nesivos Shalom observes that the study of the Ethics of our Fathers and delving into the laws of Brachos intuitively seem to be paths that might very well lead one to develop into a more pious person. However, the Nesivos wonders, "How does studying the laws of damages transform one into a Chassid?"

To answer this question, the Nesivos quotes the Maharal who teaches that there are three areas that one needs to focus on if one desires to strive toward a more meaningful life: One's relationship with oneself, one's relationship with HaShem and one's relationship with one's fellow human beings.

Nesivos further explains that by learning and internalizing the wisdom contained in Pirkei Avos, one can improve in his or her relationship with themselves. Similarly, by learning the Laws of Brachos and saying the proper blessings at the appropriate time one can attain a higher connection to HaShem. This is why our Sages decreed that we say 100 blessings every day. Each Bracha said with Kavana will help keep us constantly aware of HaShem and connected to Him.

The Nesivos continues and explains that delving into the laws concerning damages will heighten our awareness of our fellow human beings. This is true because if one comprehends how the Halacha approaches the Laws of Damages, one gains a heightened awareness of the effect one has on others. These halachos discuss the consequences of inflicting pain, suffering, or actual damage on another person. Learning them will sensitize us all to be very careful when interacting with their fellow man.

In truth, we learn from this that a Torah way of life is the true religion of love. When we follow Torah and Mitzvos, we internalize the importance of filling our daily lives with deeds that show sensitivity and respect for others.

We were all devastated by the very tragic news about the return of Kfir and Ariel Bibas z"l and we are even more devastated by the fact that their mother Shiri z"l was not returned. השם ינקום דמם

We mourn together with the Bibas family and all of Am Yisrael for them and for all our fallen brothers and sisters as a result of the war with Hamas. We continue to daven for victory and peace for the people of Israel and the entire world.

As Am Yisrael has always done, we will not lose hope or sight of our goal to bring Kedusha into the world. So we will also continue to strive to do our part and take the advice of our Sages from the Gemara cited above and strive to be better servants of HaShem.

Good Shabbos To All!

Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

This Week at a Glance:

10TH & 11TH GRADE BKIUS SIYUMIM



Mazal Tov to 10th & 11th grade for completing Sefer Daniel. Each class celebrated a beautiful Siyum. The students contributed delicious desserts, creative games, beautiful artwork, party favors, songs, etc. all relevant to the lessons learned from the Sefer. Chazak Chazak V'nischazeik!

IVRIT RESTAURANTS & FESTIVAL



Under the guidance of Mrs. Bronstein and Mrs. Shmuel, students created an exciting פסטיבל and restaurants in Ivrit class. What a unique way to present and practice their vocabulary, and also delicious! It was great seeing the students' creativity!

10TH GRADE M&M SOCKS!



The 10th grade created adorable M&M socks with Morah Shevy, reminding them of their power to be a 'Mashal Maker' and be on the lookout for lessons we can learn from the things around us.

GOOD SHABBOS!