JUNE 26 2026| ISSUE 191

PARSHAS CHUKAS-BALAK

Rav Mordechai Kalatsky
June 26th 2026|11th Tammuz 5786

"AND HASHEM WAS ANGRY THAT [BILAAM] WENT, AND A MALACH OF HASHEM STOOD IN THE WAY FOR AN ADVERSARY AGAINST HIM." (Bamidbar 22:22)
וַיִּֽחַר־אַ֣ף אֱלֹהִ֔ים כִּי־הוֹלֵ֖ךְ הוּא֑ וַיִּתְיַצַּ֨ב מַלְאַ֧ךְ ה' בַּדֶּ֛רֶךְ לְשָׂטָ֥ן לֽוֹ וְהוּא֙ רֹכֵ֣ב עַל־אָתֹ֔נוֹ וּשְׁנֵ֥י נְעָרָ֖יו עִמּֽוֹ

Commentators explain that the angel that stood in Bilaam's was an angel of mercy that wanted to prevent him from transgressing. In verse 31 we read that the angel had a drawn sword.
Rabbi Zalman Sorotzkin commented on this that at times an angel of mercy who is trying to save a person will appear to him as an adversary who is out to harm him.

When a person has many faults, he will often have friends and relatives who try to influence him to improve. He is likely to view their nagging as irritating and painful and see them as adversaries. The truth is though that they have his best interest in mind. He should not be angry with them and should even be appreciative that they care enough to want to see him succeed. When someone tries to have a positive influence on you, thank him for it.

We also see another lesson from this verse. Sometimes an angel of mercy has to be willing to take a more aggressive stance to prevent someone from hurting himself and others.

True compassion is based on seeing the entire picture. For instance, a parent who allows his child to do whatever he wants because of how upset the child gets not getting his way might allow his child to do all kinds of things that are destructive both spiritually and to his physical wellbeing. When you really care about someone, you do not want him to harm himself and will be willing at times to be strict in order to protect him and allow him to develop into the best person he can be.

For this week have your child follow through on something he has started even though it might be hard for him. This will allow him to acquire the necessary skills for maximum success when he steps into adulthood.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Kalatsky

ZMANIM

Friday, June 26 – Erev Shabbos
Shacharis: 7:00 AM
Mincha: 7:10 PM
Early Candle Lighting: 7:27 PM
Regular Candle Lighting: 8:46 PM

Shabbos – Parshas Chukas-Balak
Shacharis: 8:45 AM
Pirchei Avos 7:45 PM
Mincha: 8:20 PM
Maariv: 9:55 PM
Havdalah 10:01 PM

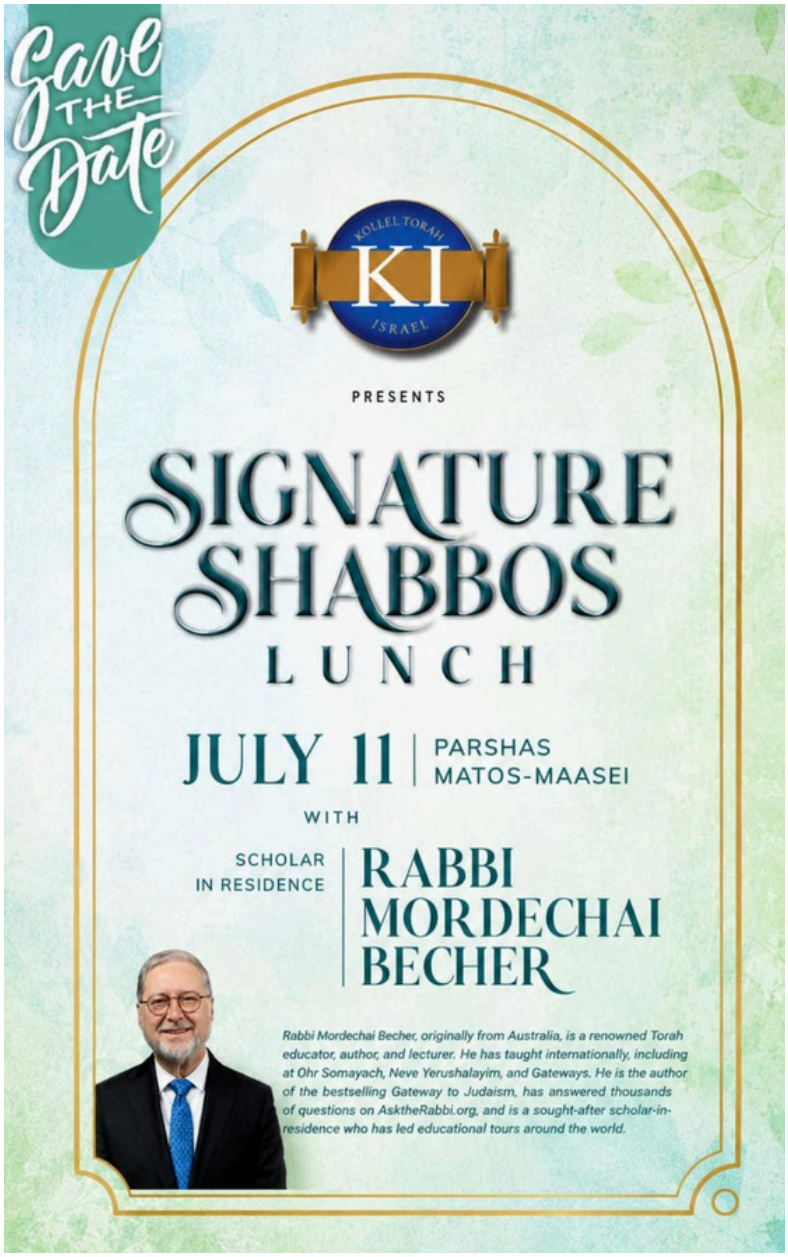
Sunday June 28
Shacharis: 8:45 AM
Mincha/Maariv: 8:50 PM

Monday–Wednesday June 29-July1
Shacharis: 7:00 AM
Mincha/Maariv: 8:50 PM

Thursday – Shivah Asar B'Tammuz (Fast Day) July 2
Fast Begins: 4:19 AM
Shacharis: 7:00 AM
Mincha: 8:30 PM
Fast Ends: 9:49 PM

Friday, July 3 – Federal Holiday
Shacharis: 8:30 AM
Mincha: 7:10 PM
Early Candle Lighting: 7:27 PM
Regular Candle Lighting: 8:45 PM

COMMUNITY NEWS



MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Binyomin and Aliza Lebowitz on their chasunah this past Monday!
Mazel tov to Albert and Chaya Miller and Dr Chuna Chaim and Chana Liba Lebowitz!

Tzeischem leshalom to the Koysman family!

Happy Birthday to Ned Kantar!

RELEVANT HALACHA SHAILOS-GIVEN BY THE RAV AFTER MINCHA ON SHABBOS DURING THE LEARNING SEDER TOPIC:

Tirch De'tzibura Practical Applications

HALACHA

Cutting Fingernails for Shabbos
It is a mitzvah to cut one's fingernails in honor of Shabbos. The Mishnah Berurah writes that the preferred practice is to follow the order brought by the Rama when cutting one's fingernails. The mnemonic is:
Left hand: דבהג"א (Dalet, Beis, Hey, Gimel, Aleph) 4th,2nd,5th,3rd,1st
Right hand: בדאג"ה (Beis, Dalet, Aleph, Gimel, Hey) 2nd,4th, 1st, 3rd, 5th
While some authorities permit cutting the nails in any order, and others simply advise against cutting them sequentially, the Mishnah Berurah concludes that it is best to follow the Rama's order. When cutting a child's nails, however, there is no need to follow this order.
The Gemara also teaches the importance of properly disposing of cut nails. It says:
One who buries them is called righteous.
One who burns them is called pious.
One who leaves them where people may step on them is considered wicked.
The concern is that a pregnant woman who steps on cut nails could be harmed. Therefore, we should be careful not to let nails remain on the floor. If they do fall, they should be swept up. If they are moved from where they originally fell, the concern no longer applies. Today, many people either burn the nails or simply flush them down the toilet.

KIDDUSH

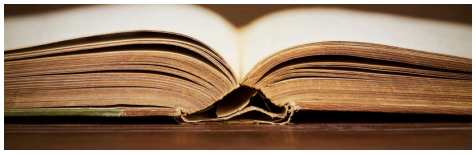
This week's Kiddush is sponsored by Ned and Carol Kantar in honor of Ned's 80th birthday

And Sponsored by the Koysman family on their last Shabbos in Minnesota, before moving back home to NY, in appreciation of the KI kehila.

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Matisyahu Molldrem and Misha Wahlstrom in honor of Judith Molldrem's upcoming yahrzeit.

KI KID'S CORNER

SHIURIM



Wednesdays 9am - Chovos Halevovos-Rabbi Kalatsky

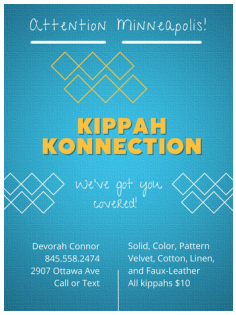
Shabbos 8:15am – Parenting-John Ghermezian

Shabbos- Pirkei Avos 35 minutes before Mincha

Shabbos-Relevant Halacha Shailos with Rabbi Kalatsky 10 minutes after mincha

Shabbos Daf Yomi – 50 minutes before Mincha Zevi Segal

Shabbos Nesivos Shalom - 50 minutes before Mincha



Kenesseth Israel Congregation | office@kenessethisrael.org
Rabbi Mordechai Kalatsky
Chaim Goldberger Rabbi Emeritus - Jerome Herzog zl Rabbi Emeritus

KI Board of Directors: Dr. Joey Greenberg-President, Sid Usem-Vice President, Adam Galili-Treasurer, Mike Barry, Jake Berenberg, Ezra Daitchman, Melvin Graf, Michael Moskowitz, Yehuda Polter, Zevi Segal, Shlomo Schloss, Moshe Tabbouche

The KI Bulletin is generously sponsored by Melvin & Miriam Graf