JULY 17 2026| ISSUE 194

PARSHAS DEVARIM

Rav Mordechai Kalatsky
July 17th 2026|3rd Av 5786

"THESE ARE THE THINGS WHICH MOSHE SPOKE TO ALL OF ISRAEL" (Devorim 1:1)
אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל

Sefer Devarim begins Moshe's final instructions to the Jewish people with a list of places. Rashi cites the Sifra that the Torah is alluding to Moshe's words of rebuke to the Jewish people. Out of respect for the nation, Moshe only hinted at their transgressions by naming the places where they occurred and did not mention them explicitly.

Rabbi Yehuda Leib Chasman commented that a person who is sincerely interested in self-improvement only needs a slight hint in order to realize that he needs to improve. Such a person looks for opportunities to make positive changes in himself and examines his actions for any flaws at the slightest hint of wrongdoing.

Many people try to avoid hearing criticism at all to the point that even if someone explicitly tells them that they have erred, they find all kinds of rationalizations to deny the criticism. When you truly want to become a better person and your goal is overcoming your faults you appreciate when someone points out ways you can improve. Just as a person who is interested in becoming wealthy will welcome any tips and suggestions that might be financially beneficial, a growth-seeker will utilize any tips and suggestions that can be spiritually beneficial.

Rabbi Yisrael Salanter would utilize every opportunity to gain self-improvement insights as illustrated in the following story. He was once in the home of a shoemaker late at night and observed how he was doing his work by the dwindling light of an ebbing candle. "Why are you still working?" Rav Yisrael asked. "It is very late and soon the candle will be extinguished."

The shoemaker replied, "As long as the candle is still burning it is still possible to accomplish." Rav Yisrael was very moved by this, and said, "If for our physical needs one mends as long as the candle is burning, how much more must we make every effort to accomplish and mend our souls as long as life remains." This became his refrain, "As long as the candle is lit, accomplish and mend."

We need to stop and realize that we all have a candle within us, a neshama that has unlimited power and potential. Let's take this to heart and never give up on the candle within.

Good Shabbos,
Rabbi Kalatsky

ZMANIM

Friday, July 17 – Erev Shabbos, Parshas Devarim (Shabbos Chazon)
Shacharis: 7:00 a.m.
Mincha: 7:05 p.m.
Earliest Candle Lighting: 7:22 p.m.
Regular Candle Lighting: 8:37 p.m.

Shabbos – Parshas Devarim (Shabbos Chazon)
Shacharis: 8:45 a.m.
Mincha: 8:10 p.m.
Maariv: 9:45 p.m.
Shabbos Ends: 9:49 p.m.

Sunday, July 19
Shacharis: 8:45 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv: 8:40 p.m.

Monday–Wednesday July 20-22
Shacharis: 7:00 a.m.
Chatzos 1:19 PM
Mincha/Maariv: 8:40 p.m.(Mon & Tues)

Wednesday Night – Tisha B'Av July 22
Mincha 7:00pm
Fast Begins: 8:50 p.m.
The Rav will speak before maariv 9:15 p.m.
Maariv and Eicha 9:30 p.m.

Thursday – Tisha B'Av July 23
Shacharis: 8:30 a.m.
Explanatory kinnos
Mincha: 8:15 p.m.
Kumzitz between Mincha and Maariv
Fast Ends: 9:40 p.m.

Friday – Erev Shabbos, Parshas Va'eschanan (Shabbos Nachamu)
Shacharis: 7:00 a.m.
Mincha: 7:00 p.m.
Earliest Candle Lighting: 7:17 p.m.
Regular Candle Lighting: 8:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear KI Family,
With Hashem's help our KI Kehilla is experiencing an exciting period of growth. We have welcomed new families, have vibrant tefillos, expanded Torah learning and outreach, and increased participation in programs and events, all contributing to a dynamic and energized community.

To support this continued growth in a thoughtful way, we are pleased to share that Rabbi Yaakov and Mrs. Faigy Scher, together with their five children, will be joining the KI family. Rabbi Scher will serve as Assistant Rabbi, working alongside Rabbi Kalatsky and Mrs Scher along side the Rebbetzin to help strengthen connections and ruchniyus within our diverse community.

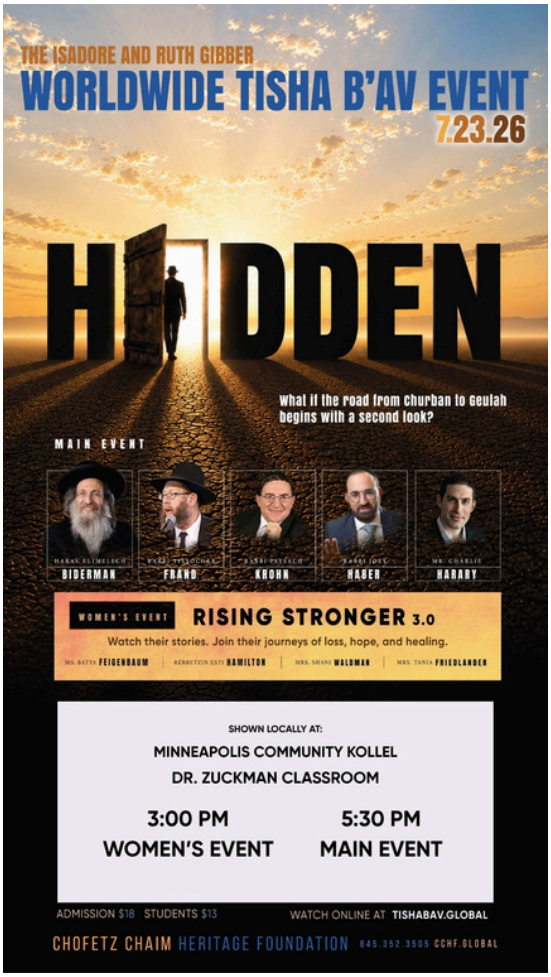
Rabbi Yaakov Scher grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and moved to Eretz Yisrael after Mesivta to pursue advanced Torah learning. After his marriage, he continued learning in Yeshivas Mir and later spent many years in the Second Seder Kollel under Harav Shraga Kallus שליט"א, where he received semichah and developed a strong foundation in practical halachah.

Over the years, Rabbi Scher has combined intensive Torah scholarship with teaching, halachic guidance, and community leadership. He has served as a Night Seder Rebbe at Ohr Sameach, a Shoel U'Meishiv at Yeshivas Toras Chaim, and continues advanced learning in Kollel Horaah while answering halachic questions and delivering shiurim in his Jerusalem community. He has also received extensive shimush from prominent Rabbanim and completed specialized training in rabbanus, kiruv, and chinuch through Ner L'Elef.

Mrs. Faigy Scher grew up in Flatbush, attended Bais Yaakov Academy and Mesores Rochel Seminary, and taught elementary school before returning to Eretz Yisrael. Together, Rabbi and Mrs. Scher have built a home centered on Torah, warmth, chesed, and a genuine love for people.

We are delighted to welcome the Scher family and look forward to this next chapter at KI.

KI Search Committee
Rabbi Kalatsky



Shalom Home
Generations of Care Newsletter

Sunshine Club Brings Joy Across Generations

Some visits brighten a room the moment they begin.

On June 14, Sholom residents welcomed the Sunshine Club, a group of children from Kenesseth Israel Congregation who visit each month to share music, art and joy with seniors. Ranging in age from 3 to 12, the children arrived with energy, creativity and a simple purpose: to help every resident feel seen, valued and loved.

Together, the children and residents drew Jewish-themed pictures, sitting side by side at the tables as conversations, laughter and smiles naturally filled the room. For many residents, the joy was not only in the activity itself, but in the presence of children eager to spend time with them.

After the art project, the children performed a variety of Jewish songs. Residents clapped along as the music filled the room, especially as Tuli, together with his friends Gavriel and Eliyahu, helped conduct the choir, and Shabsi played his guitar. The moment was sweet, lively and deeply meaningful.

Before the visit, Tzipporah Leah, the Rebbetzin who organizes the Sunshine Club, reminded the children of their goal: "By the time we leave, let's try to put a smile on every resident's face."

That is exactly what happened.

The Sunshine Club is a beautiful expression of Kibud Zekaynim, the Jewish value of honoring the elderly. Through song, art and simple acts of kindness, these children are learning that caring for older adults is part of who we are as a community.

Sholom is grateful to Tuli, Eliyahu, Gavriel, Chana, Shabsi, Benyamin, Menachem, Ita and Esther for bringing sunshine, sweetness and smiles to our residents.

"By the time we leave, let's try to put a smile on every resident's face."

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to the Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Heber's on the Bris of their son Yaacov Tzvi!

Mazel tov to Allen Yeyvel on his engagement to Karen Manchroff of NY!

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

The balance between veahavta lereiacha kamocha and chayecha kodmim

HALACHA

Hilchos Muktzah in the Kitchen

There is a prohibition against moving items that are classified as muktzah on Shabbos. Three categories of muktzah commonly arise in the kitchen:

1. Kli Shemelachto L'Issur

A kli shemelachto l'issur is a utensil whose primary use is for an activity prohibited on Shabbos, such as a hammer or screwdriver. Such an item may be moved only in the following situations:

- L'tzorech gufo – when it is needed for a permissible use. For example, using a hammer to crack open a coconut.
- L'tzorech mekomo – when the place where it is resting is needed. For example, removing a hammer from the table because the space is needed.

However, it may not be moved simply to put it away or to protect it from being damaged.

2. Muktzah Machmas Gufo

These are items that have no practical use on Shabbos, such as rocks, raw fish, or empty nutshells.
Since they have no designated Shabbos use, they may not be moved for any purpose.

3. Basis L'Davar Ha'Asur

A basis l'davar ha'asur is an item that serves as a base or support for a muktzah object, such as candlesticks holding Shabbos candles or a tray supporting those candlesticks
The base assumes the same halachic status as the muktzah item it supports. Furthermore, once an item becomes a basis at the beginning of Shabbos, it generally remains muktzah for the entire Shabbos, even if the muktzah item is later removed.

For example, candlesticks on which Shabbos candles were lit may not be moved even after the candles have burned out, because they served as the base for the candles and flames, which were muktzah during bein hashmashos at the onset of Shabbos.

KIDDUSH

Kiddush is sponsored by Blair and Michelle Jonas to express gratitude to Hashem and in appreciation to this community on their 7th Wedding Anniversary.

Kiddush is also sponsored by Meir and Elka Smith for the yahrtzeit of Elka's parents Yonah Zev ben Yaakov Koppel on 5 Av and Chaya Meira bas Yitzchok on 7 Av.

shalosh seudos sponsorship is still available

KI KID'S CORNER

SHIURIM

Wednesdays 9am - Chovos Halevovos-Rabbi Kalatsky

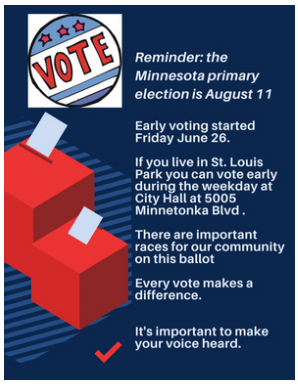
Shabbos 8:15am – Parenting-John Ghermezian

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



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Rabbi Mordechai Kalatsky
Chaim Goldberger Rabbi Emeritus - Jerome Herzog zl Rabbi Emeritus

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The KI Bulletin is generously sponsored by Melvin & Miriam Graf