OCTOBER 23 2026| ISSUE 205

SHABBOS PARSHAS LECH LECHA

Rav Mordechai Kalatsky
October 23 2026|12th Cheshvan 5787

"AND [HASHEM] TOOK HIM OUTSIDE AND HE SAID TO HIM, LOOK UP, PLEASE, AT THE HEAVENS AND COUNT THE STARS, IF YOU CAN COUNT THEM. AND HE SAID TO HIM, SO, TOO, WILL BE YOUR DESCENDANTS." (Berieshis 15:5)

וַיּוֹצֵא אֹתוֹ הַחוּצָה וַיֹּאמֶר הַבֶּט־נָא הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וּסְפֹר הַכּוֹכָבִים אִם־תּוּכַל לִסְפֹּר אֹתָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כֹּה יִהְיֶה זַרְעֶךָ׃

The Baal Shem Tov explained that the descendants of Avraham are like stars. We know there are 100 billion stars in our galaxy. We have never reached close to those numbers. What did Hashem mean?

We see the stars from a great distance and they appear to be a tiny speck in the sky but in the heavens they are gigantic. So, too, in this world many people look very small. Many people feel very small, but in reality every person has a neshama, a soul and has unlimited potential and abilities. Every person has greatness within him.

When you look at another person, realize that he is a star. He might seem small to you and might appear to have not accomplished very much. Gain an awareness of the great potential of each person. View each person as an entire world, as an enormous being in the cosmos. When you see people in this light you will behave towards them with great respect. When you show others respect they will gain greater respect for themselves. This can give a person the encouragement he needs to live up to his potential greatness.

This attitude is not just towards others but it is towards myself also. Every one of us is a star. Every one of us is bigger than the sun. I matter, and in the heavens Hashem sees me for the tremendous person I can become. When I realize the greatness within myself I will make different choices and live life on a different plane.

The Chidushei Harim who was the Rebbe of Gur called in his grandson the Sefas Emes to let him know that he will be taking over the Chassidus. The Sefas Emes was only 19 years old at the time. He looked at his grandfather and told him, you are so great, so righteous, how could I be worthy of such a position? His grandfather explained that there was once a mountain climber who went through Europe climbing the highest mountains. There was one mountain that took him over a week of painstaking effort for every step he made. When he got to the top of the mountain he saw a child who came to greet him. "How did you get up here?" the climber asked the child? "I was born here", answered the child.

For this week, take out a moment every day to contemplate the greatness that lies within ourselves. This will allow us to strive for greater purpose and meaning in our lives!

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Kalatsky

ZMANIM

Friday – Erev Shabbos Lech Lecha, October 23
Shacharis: 7:00 AM
Candle Lighting: 5:56 PM
Mincha: 6:00 PM

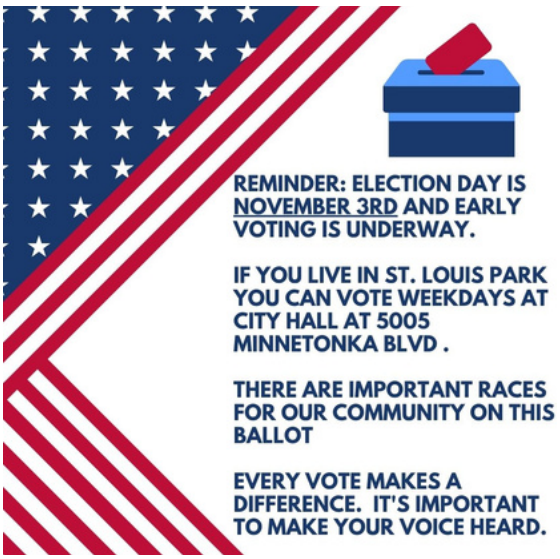
Shabbos, Oct. 24
Shacharis 8:45 AM
Mincha 5:30 PM
Shabbos Ends 7:02 PM

Sunday, Oct. 25
Shacharis 8:45 AM
Mincha/Maariv 5:55 PM

Monday–Thursday, Oct. 26–29
Shacharis 7:00 AM
Mincha/Maariv 5:55PM

Friday Erev Shabbos Parshas Vayeira Oct 30
Shacharis 7:00 AM
Candle Lighting 5:46 PM
Mincha 5:50pm

COMMUNITY NEWS



MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to Mr. & Mrs. Aryeh and Annie Barasch on the birth of a twin baby girls! Mazel Tov to the grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Stewart & Channah Fishman.

Mazel Tov to Ari & Rachel Fish on the birth of a baby boy! Mazel Tov to the grandparents Mordechai & Miryam Skapino!

Mazel Tov to Avraham Teyvel on his marriage to Karen Manchroff!

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

Halachos Of Tachanun

HALACHA

Halachos of Eating and Drinking Before Kiddush

1. Eating and Drinking After Accepting Shabbos: Once a person accepts Shabbos, it is forbidden to eat or drink anything, even water, until Kiddush has been recited. This prohibition applies even if Shabbos was accepted before shekiyah.

2. Women After Candle Lighting: Since lighting Shabbos candles generally constitutes acceptance of Shabbos, women who accept Shabbos through candle lighting may not eat or drink, even water, after lighting candles until Kiddush.

3. Someone Who Is Very Hungry or Thirsty: The Maharsham says in Daas Torah, A person who has accepted Shabbos and is extremely hungry or thirsty but cannot make Kiddush may, under certain circumstances, eat or drink before nightfall. This is a limited exception that depends on the circumstances, and should not be treated as a general permission.

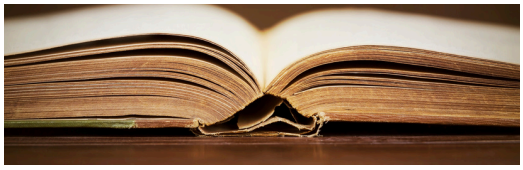
KIDDUSH

Kiddush sponsored anonymously on honor of Sid Usem and all he does for the shul.

Shalosh seudos sponsored by the Pergament family in honor of Abe's Aufruf.

KI KID'S CORNER

SHIURIM



Wednesdays 9am - Pele-Yoetz-Rabbi Kalatsky

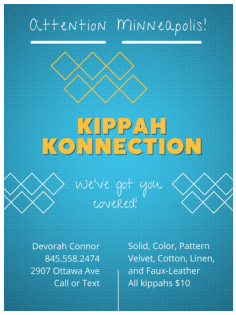
Shabbos 8:15am – Business Ethics -John Ghermezian

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