



Mesorah Mag

The Weekly Magazine of the Orthodox Community at Rutgers Hillel

New and Improved!

שבת שלום וברכה!

"Mesorah Mag is my favorite newspaper."

Andrew Getraer, Executive Director of Rutgers Hillel

Moral Monuments

by Shlomo Siegelman

As the Jews crossed the Jordan River into Israel, they were commanded to set up giant stones and inscribe the words of the Torah on the stones. Rashi comments that the words used to describe the inscription, "well clarified", teach us that the Jews were to inscribe the words of the Torah in each of 70 languages of the world at that time. Other nations through time have had the custom to erect glorious monuments at sites of glorious or epic victories. On these monuments, nations would engrave the story of their victory in a proud manner to show their physical prowess to anyone who passed by. The Jews were different. Instead of a legend of victory extolling their army, the Jews were commanded to record the words of the Torah.

The purpose of this inscription was to remind the people that there was a noble and unique goal in their conquest of the land of Israel. Moshe cautions the people to appreciate the purpose of their nationhood. We are cautioned not to focus too much on wielding power and gaining fame, but rather to direct our attention towards being role models for the rest of the world.

Some commentators explain that the giant stones were meant to symbolize a mezuzah. Just as the mezuzah is meant to remind a Jew of his obligation to God and his commandments, so too these "mezuzot" were meant to show the world of the Jewish nations commitment to God, the Torah, and morality. Although we don't all live in Israel anymore and Israel is often painted poorly in the media, we still must do the best we can as individuals to make a good name for the Jewish nation. May we all be successful in our efforts to be faithful to the Torah and through our following the mizvot become a beacon of morality onto the rest of the nations.



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Schedule of Times

Candlelighting: 6:47 pm
Friday Evening
Prayers: 6:30 pm
Tisch: 9:30 pm
Shabbat Morning:
9:30 am
S"Z Kriat Shma: 9:46 am
Mincha: 6:40pm
Shabbat ends: 7:45 pm

Weekdays

Shacharit & Breakfast:
8:15 am
Rambam Shiur
following breakfast
Mincha/Ma'ariv:
6:40 pm



Parshah Preguntas

by Talia Friedman

- Q1. What is the prescribed speech for Bikkurim and when do we currently say it?
- Q2. Can you think of a way to connect the end of last week's Parsha with the beginning of this week's Parsha; Amalek to Bikkurim (first fruits)?
- Q3. How many verses are in the 2nd Aliyah?
- Q4. What word comes up most in the 2nd Aliyah and how many times does it appear?
- Q5. How does the Sefer haChinuch explain how Bnei Yisrael are supposed to walk in the ways of G-d?
- Q6. What kind of tool is not allowed to be used when building the Mishkan on Mt. Eval?
- Q7. How does the description of which people are teaching Bnei Yisrael change from the beginning of the 4th Aliyah to the middle of the 4th Aliyah?
- Q8. For the Tochechah (rebuke), how many and which tribes stood on Mt. Gerizim, and how many and which tribes stood on Mt. Ebal?
- Q9. How many actions are cursed in this section and can you find an underlying theme connecting which connects there specific accursed actions?
- Q10: What is notable about the 6th Aliyah?
- Q11. In which prayer do we say part of the first verse of the 6th aliyah (28:7)?
- Q12. In which other Parsha in the Torah is there Tochachah?
- Q13. Can give an example from history of when a punishment foretold in the Tochachah came true?
- Q14. In the middle of the Tochachah, verse 28: 47 discusses why Bnei Yisrael would receive these punishments. Which sin is mentioned?
- Q15. What miracle happened to Bnei Yisrael's clothing while they wandered through the desert?
- Q16. When on Shabbat do we say the first few words of the Haftorah ("קדמיא ערי כבא אורל"?)

- A1. Arami Oved Avi, we say it during the Maggid section of the Passover Seder of the Passover Seder of Bnei Yisrael being grateful to Hashem
- A2. Amalek showed ungratefulness while Bikkurim are a paradigm of Bnei Yisrael being grateful to Hashem
- A3. 4
- A4. Lo, it is mentioned 5x.
- A5. According to the Sefer HaChinuch, people walk in the ways of G-d by copying some of the good that G-d does. G-d visits the sick, clothes the naked, comforts the mourner and so should we. In what other ways do you think we can walk in G-d's footsteps?
- A6. Iron (27:5)
- A7. In the beginning of the Aliyah (27:1) Moshe and the elders are instructing Bnei Yisrael, while in the middle of the Aliyah (27:9) Moshe, the priests and the Levites are instructing Bnei Yisrael.
- A8. Mt Gerizim: 6 -- Shimon, Levi, Yehuda Yissachar, Yosef and Binjamin.
- A9. Mt Ebal: 6 -- Reuven, Gad, Asher, Zevulun, Gad and Naftali.
- A9. 12 and all the accursed actions can be done in private where the only witness is either an accomplice and/or God.
- A10. It's the longest Aliyah in the Torah from a single Parsha
- A11. In the Mishbe'ach for the IDF
- A12. Parshat Bechukotai
- A13. (28:68) There is a punishment when the market will be overwhelmed with Jewish slaves to the point that no one will buy a Jew; this happened in the time of the Romans. There are many more examples if you think long enough.
- A14. The sin mentioned is "because you did not serve G-d with happiness, cheery heartiness throughout it all". A Mitzva must be done happily and not begrudgingly:
- A15. Neither the clothing nor the shoes wore out. The clothing remained good as new for all forty years.
- A16. Lecha Dodi



Community, Communication

by Martelle Spiewak

Good Shabbos everyone. Here at Rutgers, especially at Mesorah in Hillel, we have a community. One of the most important things in a community is communication. They are similar words for a reason: to have a community, the members must communicate. This is true even from the Torah. The first Mishnah of Pirkei Avot says, “Moshe received the Torah from Har Sinai (meaning HaShem), and transmitted it to Yehoshua and from Yehoshua to the elders and from the elders to the prophets and from the prophets to the Men of the Great Assembly.” Without this communication, we would not have the Oral Torah, which also helps explain and allow us to understand the Written Torah. Communication within a community is key. It transmits ideas, thoughts, facts, and other important notifications throughout a community. In our community, several things rely, almost solely, on communication. We have an Eruv (which if anyone would like to help check, please contact Sam Kaplan). For an Eruv to be reliable, people need to check and maintain it, as well as communicate to the rest of the community if it is up or down. Without communication, the community’s Eruv could be down, but the community would not know, causing people who rely on the Eruv to sin.

Another important factor in communication is to avoid having two conflicting ideas at once. It is extremely difficult for a person to know what someone else expects of them when the first person is told to both go to sleep and do their homework, pretty much at the same time. Both of these actions, while done separately are very doable, but if one is told to do them at the same time, it just doesn’t work.

In the Torah, communication is important because HaShem could have just transmitted the ideas into Moshe’s head instead of telling him the ideas, however the Torah states numerous times that HaShem spoke to Moshe. Moshe then had to communicate the ideas and laws back to the community. We must remember that to be a successful community, we need to communicate with each other.

Have a good Shabbos.



Mesorah Mag

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Want to write for us?
Sign up after Havdalah in
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Jewish Joke

Sponsored by Edye and Dana

Moishe is driving in Jerusalem. He’s late for a meeting, he’s looking for a parking place, and can’t find one. In desperation, he turns towards heaven and says: “Lord, if you find me a parking place, I promise that I’ll eat only kosher, respect Shabbat, and all the holidays.” Miraculously, a place opens up just in front of him. He turns his face up to heaven and says, “Never mind, I just found one!”



Mesorah Calendar

| | |
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| Sunday | Souper Sunday Night Learning -- 7:30 pm @ 76 Jefferson St. |
| Monday | What's Brewin' -- 9 pm @ ABP |
| Tuesday | Men's Shiur w/ R' Lewis -- 7:30 @ location TBA Women's Shiur w/ Miri Cohen -- 9:15 pm @ 37 Richardson St. |
| Wednesday | Jewish Book Club -- 8 pm @ Hillel Shiur & Beer -- 9:00 pm @ 22 Sicard St. |
| Thursday | Mishmar w/ R' Jay Weinstein -- 8 p.m. @ Hillel Open Beit Midrash Learning -- 9 p.m. @ Hillel (3rd floor) |

Mesorah and the entire Hillel community would like to extend our condolences to the Morrison family on the loss of Mark Morrison this past week. May you be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Want the eruv to be UP?
Then help check it!
Speak with Andrew Cohen or Sam Kaplan to discuss how you can get involved!

Lulav and esrog set for sale for \$36. Speak with Ari Podhorcer about ordering one.

Interested in Shiur and Beer? Talk to Dan Rosenblum to see how you can help out.

Miri Cohen's women's shiur is totally awesome and there is delicious food and you should totally go to it. 'Nuff said.

Birthdays!

Sept 17



Sept 18:

Raffi Mark

Sept 19:

Keren Hayardeny

Sept 21:

Evan Friedlander

