

CANDLE LIGHTING 6:45 PM | 6 ADAR II | MARCH 16, 2024 | HAVDALA 7:50 PM

חוק חוק ובתחוק 💷

שבת פרשת פקודי SHABBAT PARSHAT PEKUDEI

Haftorah is Kings I 7:51-8:21.

FRIDAY EVENING MINCHA 6:50 PM SHKIA 7:04 PM TZAIT HAKOCHAVIM 7:44 PM SHABBAT HASHKAMA 8:00 AM MAIN 9:00 AM LAST KRIAT SHEMA 10:05 AM POST-HASHKAMA SHIUR 10:00 AM

PRE-MINCHA SHIUR 6:00 PM MINCHA 6:40 PM MAARIV 7:50 PM

תענית אסתר (מוקדם) TAANIT ESTHER (OBSERVED THUR., MARCH 21)

Fast Begins: 5:45 AM
Fast Ends: 7:50 PM
Before Mincha give three halfdollar coins to Tzedakah in
commemoration of the Half
Shekel (מחצית השקל) given to
the Beit HaMikdash to purchase
new animal offerings, beginning
with Nisan. For more information
on Taanit Esther, go to page 4.

SEUDAH SHLISHIT

Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by the Farajuns to commemorate the Yahrzeit of Ziv's father, Moshe Ben Chaya & Aaron $^{"}$.

GITA COOPERWASSER YOUTH EVENTS

Hamantash Baking, this Sunday at 2:00 PM.

MISHLOACH MANOT DELIVERY

If you can volunteer to help deliver shul Mishloach Manot on Purim, please email Shelly at sewinchester58@gmail.com.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia Night, a Saturday evening of games & laughter on March 30 at 9:30 PM. \$10/person. RSVP by March 25 here: TRIVIA NIGHT.

SHIR HASHIRIM ROUND ROBIN PEREK-BY-PEREK SHIUR

Click here to indicate the Perek you want to speak on during Seduah Shlishit of Shabbat Hagadol: <u>SHIR HASHIRIM</u>.

ORDER HANDMADE KERESTIR SHMURA MATZAH THROUGH AHAVAT ACHIM WITH A PICK UP AT THE SHUL BEFORE PESACH

Order handmade Kerestir shmura matzah via Ahavat Achlm by March 28 at \$37/Lb. Pick up at the shul before Pesach. RSVP by by clicking here: Matzah.

MAZEL TOV

Mazal Tov to Jewel & Robert Safren on the birth of a grandson to Kayla & Eli Katz.

יגדלוהו לתורה ולחופה ולמעשים טובים May they raise him to Torah, chuppah and good deeds.

ORTHODOX UNION THE STATE OF THE	SUNDAY 3/17	MONDAY 3/18	TUESDAY 3/19	WEDNESDAY 3/20	THURSDAY 3/21	FRIDAY 3/22
WEEKDAY MINYANIM AT AHAVAT ACHIM						
SHACHARIT	8:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:25 AM	6:25 AM	6:00 AM	6:25 AM
MINCHA/MAARIV	6:54 PM	6:55 PM	6:56 PM	6:57 PM	6:40 PM	6:55 PM
ZMANIM						
Earliest Talit	6:10 AM	6:08 AM	6:06 AM	6:05 AM	6:03 AM	6:01 AM
Gedolah	1:35 PM	1:35 PM	1:35 PM	1:34 PM	1:34 PM	1:34 PM
Shkia	7:06 PM	7:07 PM	7:08 PM	7:09 PM	7:10 PM	
Tzait	7:46 PM	7:47 PM	7:48 PM	7:49 PM	7:50 PM	
Rabbi Elv Shestack President Robert Safren						

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 23 - Megillat Esther Round Robin. Contact Andrew to volunteer.

March 30 - Trivia Night, an evening of games & laughter, 9:30 PM. \$10/person. RSVP by Mar. 25 here: Trivia Night.

April 6 - Scholar-in-Residence Rivka

Hertzfeld: "Bad boys, bad boys - Nadav and Avihu - Accessibility in the Torah", and "Our House: Why Wasn't David Hamelech Allowed to Build the Beit Hamikdash?"

April 14 - Hagolas Kelim/Pesach Kashering, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, at the shul.

April 20 - Pre-Pesach Luncheon

April 20 - Shir Hashirim Round Robin

April 22 - Latest to eat Chometz: 10:39 AM

April 22 - Seraifat (Burning) Chometz, 8:00

AM to 11:47 AM (latest), at Norton residence, 20-11 Hunter Pl. No foil, plastic, paper, cardboard, pasta, sauces or liquids. Bread, cereal, crackers and dry items only.

May 11 - Prospective Family Shabbaton

May 18 - Mental Health Awareness

Discussion at Seudah Shlishit.

May 26 - Lag B'Omer Community Event. Doors Open at Noon. BBQ at 12:30 PM, with special activities for youth.

IN OUR FUTURE

March 23 - Kiddush is sponsored by Shifra & John Caruso in honor of Simcha's 3rd birthday and Israel's 6th Birthday, and by Chava & Chayim Goldberg in honor of Chayim's favorite lost holiday, Yom Nikanor. April 27 - Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by the Sonnenblicks to commemorate the yahrzeit of Marty's father, Moshe Yehuda ben Yosef Dov Halevin"y.

May 25 - Kiddush is sponsored by Aliza & Richie Mayer in honor of Sophie's Bat Mitzvah.

KIDDUSH & SEUDAH SHLISHIT

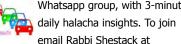
• THIS WEEK'S KIDDUSH IS DAIRY.

- To sponsor a Kiddush (prices start at \$318, plus a bottle of scotch) email dmgarfunkel@gmail.com to coordinate details and budget.
- To sponsor for \$136 Seudah Shlishit (or in the case of multiple sponsors, \$100 per sponsor), email David at dmgarfunkel@gmail.com.

SHIURIM

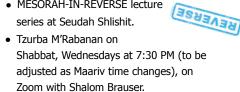


- SAMSON RAFAEL HIRSCH ON THE PARSHA, Tuesdays at 1:00 PM, in person and on zoom: https://zoom.us/i/ 7291311899 (PW: 112233).
 - TORAH FOR YOUR COMMUTE, via a Whatsapp group, with 3-minute



rabbishestack@gmail.com.

- SHABBAT SHIUR, 40 minutes before
- FUNDAMENTALS OF JEWISH THOUGHT, ON HIATUS.
- MESORAH-IN-REVERSE lecture series at Seudah Shlishit.



SHALOM BRAUSER, TEEN **MENTOR/ADULT EDUCATOR**

Middle school Chabura takes place every third shabbat:

March 15/16 April 5/6

RABBI'S OFFICE HOURS



The Rabbi is always available for halachic and/or pastoral matters. For less

exigent discussions, text, call, or drop by during the Rabbi's office hour, Tuesdays, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, or feel free to reach out to the Rabbi to make other meeting arrangements.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

March 26 - 8:30 PM, May 28 - 9:00 PM, June 25 - 9:00 PM, July 30 - 9:00 PM, August 27 - 9:00 PM, Sept. 24 - 9:00 PM, Oct. 29 - 8:30 PM, Nov. 26 - 8:30 PM, & Dec. 24 - 8:30 PM.

YOUTH EVENTS

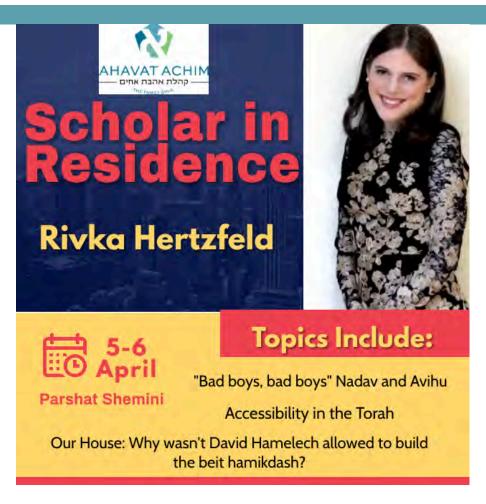
March 17 - Hamantash Baking, 2:00 PM. March 23 - Youth Zachor reading and Dinner, 4:00 PM. To RSVP by March 20, email youth@ahavatachim.org.

GITA COOPERWASSER"" YOUTH PROGRAM



- SHABBAT YOUTH LEADERS, 1ST -4TH GRADE: NICOLE & LETIZIA; 3 YRS - K: LYLA & ARIELLA
- Youth group for children in 1st to 4th Grades starts at 9:00 AM (Drop Off) in the Youth Room on the left upon entering the social hall.
- Youth group for children 3 years old through Kindergarten starts at 9:30 AM (Drop Off) in the Youth Room on the right upon entering the social hall.
- Parent & Me room opens at 9:30 AM in the Beit Midrash.
- · 5th through 9th graders will meet for Torah and games at 10:00 AM in the David Schwitzer Social Hall.
- Rabbi Meet & Greet, every Friday night, kids can come over to the Rabbi after davening to receive a cup of grape juice and a ticket!
- Children's corner at Seudah Shlishit, 1st to 4th graders will get 10 Torah guestions in 10 minutes from Rabbi Shestack, with special snacks, tickets and more.
- · Children earn tickets for coming to minyan (Friday night and/or Shabbat day), asking the rabbi questions or attending parent-child learning programs! Tickets can be redeemed for prizes.

18-25 Saddle River Road Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 201.797.0502 http://www.ahavatachim.org



DAVID SCHWITZER^{¬"y} SOCIAL HALL

Please contact Lori Garfunkel at garfmom@gmail.com to book the David Schwitzera Social Hall for an event or special occasion. \$250 per simcha (members)/\$325 for Associates/\$400 paid in advance for non-members, plus the cost of additional clean up (and a \$150 security/ cleaning deposit refunded when the social hall is returned in its original condition). Private caterers must be approved in by the Rabbi.

DONATE A SEFER, ETC.

Siddurim & Machzorim (\$40), and Chumashim (\$60), are available for donation. Please contact Jeff Safier at ieff.Safier@gmail.com for details.

SCRIP

Men's Club scrip is available. Email dmgarfunkel@gmail.com for details.

HONORARIA

The available Honoraria list will be provided upon request by contacting Steven Plotnick at seplotnick@gmail.com.

MISHEBAYRACH

With a Mishebayrach you've pledged to give Tzedakah on behalf of those for whom you asked Hashem's blessing. Contributions to the shul can be made using Paypal's Giving Fund (with 100% of the proceeds going to the Shul), by clicking here: Ahavat Achim Donations. If by check, please indicate on its face "Aliyah Donation."

YAHRZEIT PLAQUES

Memorialize a loved one with a plaque, \$300 for members/\$450 for nonmembers. We will strive to send you written notice of upcoming yahrzeit and announce name during public Yizkor. Email Amy at aagress@gmail.com to arrange.

MEN'S CLUB

Please contact Elliot Greene at <u>MensClub@AhavatAchim.Org</u> to join the Men's Club.

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships opportunities for Yahrtzeits, Refuahs, and Hodahs (thanks), are available for regular shiurim, youth events and similar activities (but not for established honorariums or sponsorship funded events). Cost of sponsorship (shiur or youth event) is \$100 per sponsor. Multiple sponsors for an event will be accepted. Sponsorships will be listed in the bulletin and announced at the event (and, if possible, a placard with the sponsorship will be prepared and displayed at the event).

Sponsorships do not include any extra amenities (such as food). Please contact either Stephen Agress or Steve Plotnick for questions or clarifications.

תענית אסתר (מוקדם) THE FAST OF ESTHER (NORMALLY OBSERVED ON THE 13TH OF ADAR, BUT THIS YEAR IT IS OBSERVED ON THURSDAY, THE 11TH OF ADAR)

On the 13th of Adar, the Fast of Esther is observed in commemoration of the Fast observed by Mordechai and Esther and all Israel. On that day, the enemies of the Jews planned to subjugate and destroy them. The opposite, however, occurred and the Jews ruled over their enemies. The practice of fasting was observed by the people of Israel whenever they were faced by war. Thus Moshe Rabenu also fasted when he came to wage war against Amalek. The aim of the fast was to affirm that a man does not prevail by physical or military strength, but only by lifting his eyes heavenward in prayer so that Divine Mercy might give him the strength to prevail in battle. This then was the purpose of the fast observed by Israel in Haman's time, when they gathered to defend themselves against those who sought to destroy them. And in memory of that Fast, a yearly Fast was fixed for generations on the same day. We recall thereby that God accepts each person's prayer and penitence in the hour of his trouble. The acceptance of this Fast of the 13th of Adar on the part of Israel for later generations is alluded to in the Scroll of Esther: 'And as they accepted upon themselves and upon their children, the matters of their fastings and their cry' (Esther 9). The Fast is called by the name of Esther because it was she who first requested the observance of a fast, of Mordechai: 'Go and gather all the Jews who are found in Shushan and fast over me, and do not eat and do not drink three days, night and day; and I and my maidens will also fast thus.' (ibid. 4)

The fast which we observe is nevertheless not observed for a three-day period, as was the case with the original Fast, nor is it observed on the same date. Originally the Fast was observed by Esther and the entire people of Israel on the 14th, 15th and 16th of Nisan, immediately after Mordechai was informed of Haman's decree and of the letter of annihilation which Haman wrote on the 13th of Nisan. Our Fast however, is observed on the 13th of Adar, in memory of the Fast observed by Israel on the day of their mobilization for war against the enemies. The Fast is nevertheless called by the name of Esther since it was she who first proposed its observance. Others hold that even our Fast is also primarily a commemoration of the original three-day Fast observed by the Jews when the decree was announced. But since the Fast could not be permanently fixed for later years in its proper time (because fasting is not permitted during Nisan), the Sages therefore fixed it for the 13th of Adar – which was also a Fast day for the Jews, who then gathered to wage war against their enemies. And although the Fast of Esther is therefore a memorial to the original three days of fasting, the Rabbis were nevertheless lenient in fixing it for only one day. In deference to this view, there are some who fast an additional three days; on Monday, Thursday and Monday after Purim. Others voluntarily fast the night as well as the day on the 13th of Adar, since the original three-day Fast was observed night and day.so each year. The reason for the giving of three 'halves' is that the term trumah (contribution) is mentioned three times in the portion of Ki-Tisa, in the account of the Mitzvah of the half-shekel. The established practice is to consider the giving of the half-shekel as not freeing one from the Mitzvah of giving charity to the poor, which is specifically prescribed for Purim.

SOME LAWS OF THE FAST OF ESTHER

Since the Fast of Esther is not one of the Fast days which are specifically mentioned in the Prophetic Writings, it is observed with greater leniency than the other Fast days. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, as well as others of generally weak health, (who would suffer by fasting) do not fast therein. The additional penitential prayers, and the Torah Reading, which are prescribed for the other Fast days are also required for the Fast of Esther. If the 13th of Adar falls on Shabbat, the Fast is observed the preceding Thursday which is the eleventh of Adar. Because of Purim, the Fast is not postponed to the following day, nor is it observed Erev Shabbat: Since it is no longer observed in any event in its proper time, it is not observed on Erev Shabbat, in deference to the honor of Shabbat. (A Fast whose prescribed date can fall on Erev Shabbat, such as the 10th of Tevet, is neither postponed nor observed earlier, but it is observed on its fixed day). Tachanun is not said during Mincha of the Fast of Esther.

THE DAY OF NIKANOR

The 13th of Adar is also mentioned in the Talmud as the day on which vengeance was executed (during the time of the Hasmoneans) against a tyrant who oppressed the land of Yehudah cruelly and arrogantly blasphemed the city of God. The name of the tyrant was Nikanor and he fell by the hand of Yehudah, the son of Matityahu, on the 13th of Adar, which was hence celebrated as a festive day.

AHAVAT ACHIM MEMBERSHIP/ HOSPITALITY

Email Sara at <u>membership@ahavatachim.org</u> for membership details or Shabbat hospitality.

PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Various life cycle events related to members are announced in the bulletin (e.g., births and weddings of children/grandchildren, bar/bat mitzvahs of children, deaths requiring shiva observance, as well as travel to/from Israel to study). Other personal announcements are not appropriate except as part of the bulletin's dedication (\$36 cost - \$54 with photo).

NUMBERS & INFO

ERUV: To subscribe for updates, email fairlawneruv@groups.io. Check status at https://groups.io/g/fairlawneruv or call 201-254-9190.

MIKVAH: 201-796-0350. At Shomrei Torah. Go to http://www.fairlawnmikvah.org/ for online booking.

TWITTER: AhavatAchimFL

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/profile.php?

id=100091322384429

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/ahavatachim/ FLICKR: flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums

BULLETIN DEDICATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND SHUL CALENDAR

Email seplotnick@gmail.com to request an announcement of a simcha, refuah or life cycle event in the bulletin or to dedicate a bulletin for \$36 (\$54 w/ Photo).

COMMUNITY SECURITY

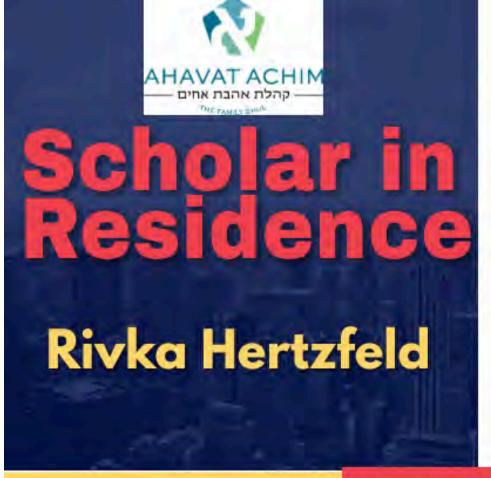
To volunteer and become part of our community security service, email Margo at security@ahayatachim.org.















Topics Include:

"Bad boys, bad boys" Nadav and Avihu Accessibility in the Torah

Our House: Why wasn't David Hamelech allowed to build the beit hamikdash?

Rivka has always loved learning Torah culminating in her earning a M.A. in Tanach from Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. She enjoys teaching all sifrei Tanach, both formally and informally, to all age groups and levels of Judaic studies background. She is the founder and CEO of PASHUT solutions, a nonprofit that focuses on making Jewish communal spaces accessible. Rivka is personable, easygoing, has a terrific sense of humor, and never misses an opportunity to share a pun. She enjoys engaging in conversations of any kind, (never during davening, of course), especially on Torah topics.

Ahavat Achim Matzah Sale

Order handmade Kerestir shmura matzah through Ahavat Achim. Pick up at the shul before Pesach

Get fantastic handmade Matzah





Shabbat Afternoon Youth Fun & Games at Ahavat Achim

March 23rd, 4:00 PM

youth zachor reading

dinner

free play

questions with rabbi shestack

Rsvp by March 20th: youth@ahavatachim.org





Covenant & Conversation



PEKUDEI • פקודי

FROM THE TEACHINGS AND WRITINGS OF RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS 7"2"

With thanks to the Schimmel Family for their generous sponsorship of Covenant & Conversation, dedicated in loving memory of Harry (Chaim) Schimmel.

"I have loved the Torah of R' Chaim Schimmel ever since I first encountered it. It strives to be not just about truth on the surface but also its connection to a deeper truth beneath. Together with Anna, his remarkable wife of 60 years, they built a life dedicated to love of family, community, and Torah.

An extraordinary couple who have moved me beyond measure by the example of their lives." — Rabbi Sacks

This year's series of essays and videos were originally written and recorded by Rabbi Sacks zt"l in 5771 (2010–2011). These timeless messages are accompanied by a new Family Edition (2023–2024), created to inspire intergenerational learning on the parsha.

On Jewish Character

Pekudei has sometimes been called "The Accountant's Parsha", because that is how it begins, with the audited accounts of the money and materials donated to the Sanctuary. It is the Torah's way of teaching us the need for financial transparency.

But beneath the sometimes-dry surface lie two extraordinary stories, one told in last week's parsha, the other the week before, teaching us something deep about Jewish nature that is still true today.

The first has to do with the Sanctuary itself. God told Moses to ask people to make contributions. Some brought gold, some silver, some copper. Some gave wool or linen or animal skins. Others contributed acacia wood, oil, spices, or incense. Some gave precious stones for the High Priest's breastplate. What was remarkable was the willingness with which they gave:

The people continued bringing [Moses] additional gifts every morning. So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the Sanctuary left what they were doing, and said to Moses, "The people are

bringing more than enough for the work God has commanded us to do."

Moses ordered an announcement to be made throughout the camp:

"Let no man or woman make anything more as an offering for the Sanctuary."

And so the people brought no more, because what they already had was more than enough to for all the work that was to be done.

Ex. 36:3-7

They brought too much. Moses had to tell them to stop. That is not the Israelites as we have become accustomed to seeing them, argumentative, quarrelsome, ungrateful. This is a people that longs to give.

One parsha earlier we read a very different story. The people were anxious. Moses had been up the mountain for a long time. Was he still alive? Had some accident happened to him? If so, how would they receive the Divine word telling them what to do and where to go? Hence their demand for a Calf

- essentially an oracle, an object through which Divine instruction could be heard.

Aaron, according to the most favoured explanation, realised that he could not stop the people directly by refusing their request, so he adopted a stalling manoeuvre. He did something with the intention of slowing them down, trusting that if the work could be delayed, Moses would reappear. This is what Aaron said:

"Take off the gold rings from the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."

Ex. 32:2

According to the Midrash, he thought this would create arguments within families, there would be resistance to the requests for jewellery, and the project would be delayed. Instead, immediately thereafter without a pause, we read:

So all the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron.

Ex. 32:3

Again the same generosity. Now, these two projects could not be less alike. One, the Tabernacle, was holy. The other, the Calf, was close to being an idol. Building the Tabernacle was a supreme mitzvah; making the Calf was a terrible sin. Yet their response was the same in both cases. Hence this comment of the Sages:

One cannot understand the nature of this people. If they are appealed to for a Calf, they give. If appealed to for the Tabernacle, they give.

Yerushalmi Shekalim 1, 45

The common factor was generosity. Jews may not always make the right choices in what they give to, but they give. In the twelfth century, Moses Maimonides twice interrupts his customary calm legal prose in his law code, the Mishneh Torah, to make the same point. Speaking about tzedakah, charity, he says:

"We have never seen or heard about a Jewish community which does not have a charity fund."

Laws of Gifts to the poor, 9:3

The idea that a Jewish community could exist without a network of charitable provisions was almost inconceivable. Later in the same book, Maimonides says:

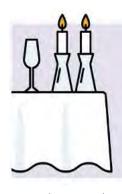
We are obligated to be more scrupulous in fulfilling the commandment of tzedakah than any other positive commandment because tzedakah is the sign of the righteous person, a descendant of Abraham our father, as it is said, "For I know him, that he will command his children . . . to do tzedakah" . . . If someone is cruel and does not show mercy, there are sufficient grounds to suspect his lineage, since cruelty is found only among the other nations . . . Whoever refuses to give charity is called Belial, the same term which is applied to idol worshippers.

Laws of Gifts to the poor, 10:1-3

Maimonides is here saying more than that Jews give charity. He is saying that a charitable disposition is written into Jewish genes, part of our inherited DNA. It is one of the signs of being a child of Abraham, so much so that if someone does not give charity there are "grounds to suspect his lineage." Whether this is nature or nurture or both, to be Jewish is to give.

There is a fascinating feature of the geography of the land of Israel. It contains two seas: the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The Sea of Galilee is full of life. The Dead Sea, as its name implies, is not. Yet they are fed by the same river, the Jordan. The difference — and this is key — is that the Sea of Galilee receives water and gives water. The Dead Sea receives but does not give. To receive but not to give is, in Jewish geography as well as Jewish psychology, simply not life.

So it was in the time of Moses. So it is today. In virtually every country in which Jews live, their charitable giving is out of all proportion to their numbers. In Judaism, to live is to give.



Around the Shabbat Table

- 1. How does the intention behind our charity affect its impact, as seen with the Mishkan versus the sin of the Golden Calf?
- 2. How do we balance the importance of giving with personal or economic constraints?
- 3. How can we inspire the next generation to uphold the tradition of generosity with their tzedakah?

• These questions come from this week's **Family Edition** to Rabbi Sacks' Covenant & Conversation. For an interactive, multi-generational study, check out the full edition at **RabbiSacks.org/covenant-conversation-family-edition/pekudei/on-jewish-character/**

