



MISHLOACH MANOT DELIVERY

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

CANDLE LIGHTING 5:38 PM | 29 ADAR | | MARCH 9, 2024 HAVDALA 6:42 PM

שבת פרשת ויקהל ערב ראש חדש/פרשת שקלים SHABBAT PARSHAT VAYAKHEL **EREV ROSH CHODESH SHABBAT PARSHAT SHEKOLIM**

Two Sifrei Torah. Maftir reads from Parshat Ki Tisah (Exodus Adar II. We do not sav אב צדקתך צדק or צדקתר.

FRIDAY EVENING	
MINCHA	5:40 PM
SHKIA	5:56 PM
TZAIT HAKOCHAVIM	6:36 PM

SHABBAT HASHKAMA 8:00 AM MAIN 9:00 AM LAST KRIAT SHEMA 9:12 AM 10:00 AM POST-HASHKAMA SHIUR PRE-MINCHA SHIUR 4:50 PM MINCHA 5:30 PM **MAARIV** 6:42 PM

Molad for Adar II is Sunday, Mar.

10, 10:13 AM & 6 Chalokim. ראש חדש אדר ב' יהיה ביום

ראשון ויום שני הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה

SEUDAH SHLISHIT

Suedah Shlishit is sponsored by Eli Zezon in memory of רינה בת חנה.

MUSICAL HALLEL/PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES MEET & GREET

Tomorrow, Sunday, join us for a special Shacharit/Mussaf davening on Rosh Chodesh Adar Bet with musical Hallel. Mask Decorating session for children 30:11-16). Haftorah is Kings II immediately following Hallel, and after Mussaf we will host a Meet & Greet for 12:1-17. We bless the month of prospective families so they can get to know our community. Please RSVP by clicking here: Musical Hallel, and let us know if you plan to attend davening and to sign up to participate in welcoming visitors during the Meet & Greet.

MISHLOACH MANOT

Order your Ahavat Achim Community Mishloach Manot now! The deadline to order is March 10th! This year, you can order using the printed form, or you can order using this Google Form! Mishloach Manot will be delivered on 3/24!

ROUND ROBIN PEREK-BY-PEREK SHIUR



Now we need more volunteers to sign up for Shir Hashirim chapters for the round robin to take place at seudah shlishit on Shabbat Hagadol. Click here to indicate the Perek you want to speak on: SHIR HASHIRIM.

DR. NAVA R. SILTON LECTURES

This Saturday night, 8:30 PM at the shul, Dr. Nava R. Silton will be delivering the last of her three-part lecture series on "Parenting & Mental Health in the Modern World", entitled "Creativity" with an interactive game she created. RSVP here: Mental Health.



ORTHODOX UNION MILES IN Enhancing Jewish Life	SUNDAY 3/10	MONDAY 3/11	TUESDAY 3/12	WEDNESDAY 3/13	THURSDAY 3/14	FRIDAY 3/15		
WEEKDAY MINYANIM AT AHAVAT ACHIM								
SHACHARIT	8:00 AM	6:05 AM	6:25 AM	6:25 AM	6:15 AM	6:25 AM		
MINCHA/MAARIV	6:46 PM	6:47 PM	6:49 PM	6:50 PM	6:51 PM	6:50 PM		
ZMANIM								
Earliest Talit	6:21 AM	6:20 AM	6:18 AM	6:16 AM	6:15 AM	6:13 AM		
Gedolah	1:36 PM	1:36 PM	1:36 PM	1:36 PM	1:36 PM	1:35 PM		
Shkia	6:58 PM	6:59 PM	7:01 PM	7:02 PM	7:03 PM			
Tzait	7:38 PM	7:39 PM	7:41 PM	7:42 PM	7:43 PM			
Rabbi Fly Shestack President Robert Safren								

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10 - Musical Hallel and Open House March 23 - Megillat Esther Round Robin. Contact Andrew to volunteer.

March 30 - Trivia Night, Details to Follow.

April 6 - Scholar-in-Residence Rivka Hertzfeld to discuss "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 20 - Pre-Pesach Luncheon/Shir Hashirim Round Robin

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

March 10 - 8:00 PM, Gary Morgenstein, acclaimed author and playwright, will read excerpts from his works and discuss antisemitism and the arts at Congregation Shomrei Torah in Fair Lawn. \$18 admission fee goes to Israel relief. Register at Gary Morgenstein Event - Event - Congregation Shomrei Torah.

KIDDUSH & SEUDAH SHLISHIT

• THIS WEEK'S KIDDUSH IS DAIRY.

- To sponsor a Kiddush (prices start at \$318, plus a bottle of scotch) email <u>dmgarfunkel@gmail.com</u> 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/j/7291311899 (PW: 112233).
- TORAH FOR YOUR COMMUTE, via a

 Whatsapp group, with 3-minute

daily halacha insights and a
weekly 5-minute parsha

elucidation. To join email Rabbi Shestack at rabbishestack@amail.com.

- SHABBAT SHIUR, 40 minutes before mincha.
- FUNDAMENTALS OF JEWISH THOUGHT, ON HIATUS.
- MESORAH-IN-REVERSE lecture series at Seudah Shlishit.
- Tzurba M'Rabanan on Shabbat, Tuesdays,
 7:30 PM, on Zoom with Shalom Brauser.

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



REVERSE

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.

GITA COOPERWASSER[¬]"> YOUTH EVENTS

March 10 - Musical Hallel & Mask Making, 9:45 AM. RSVP: Hallel/Masks

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^{¬"y} YOUTH PROGRAM



- SHABBAT YOUTH LEADERS, 1ST -4TH GRADE: NICOLE & RAQUEL; 3 YRS - K: LYLA & LETIZIA
- 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 questions 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



Parenting & Mental Health in the Modern World



The final lecture in our parenting series with Dr. Nava R. Silton on:

Creativity with an interactive game

Saturday, March 9th ~ 8:30 pm Congregation Ahavat Achim 18-25 Saddle River Rd.

RSVP: https://forms.gle/aAxVZKFohfS5BAyc7

Nava R. Silton, Ph.D. is a developmental psychologist and a full professor at Marymount Manhattan College, where she teaches classes in child development, cognition personality, creativity, and children's media. Learn more here: https://www.drnavasilton.com/

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MUSICAL HALLEL+ COMMUNITY OPENHOUSE



SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024



SHACHARIT W/ MUSICAL HALLEL

Hallel begins ~9:35am



PURIM MASK DECORATING

For Youth





BREAKFAST + MEET & GREET









ORDER BY MAR 10TH!

MAR 23, 2024 14TH ADAR, 5784

WE INVITE YOU TO PARTCIPATE IN SENDING MISHLOACH MANOT TO OUR MEMBERS.

COST: \$7 PER HOUSE OR \$185 FOR THE ENTIRE SHUL

SIGN UP ONLINE OR MAIL FORMS TO LORI GARFUNKEL, 12-56 LYLE TERR, FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

CHECK MADE OUT TO AHAVAT ACHIM OR PAY ONLINE THROUGH PAYPAL

YOU CAN ALSO PARTNER WITH
US TO SEND MISHLOACH
MANOT TO AN ISRAELI CHAYAL!





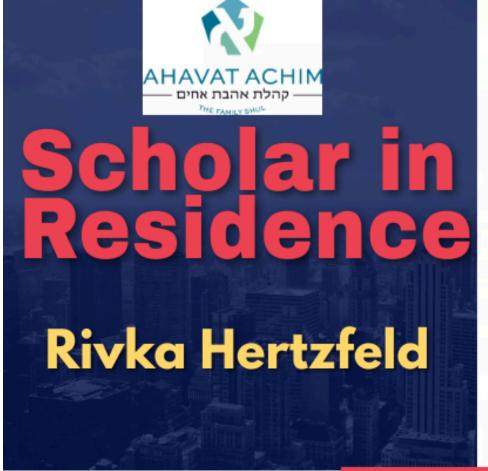
MISHLOACH MANOT PURIM 5784

- Amy & Stephen Agress
- Talia & Etai Barach
- Zehava & Norman Baron
- Renee & Lior Ben-Biniamin
- _ Tami & Mark Berman
- Sara & Larry Bernstein
- Audrey & Jack Bickel
- _ Natasha & Daniel Borsuk
- _ Lisa & Aryeh Brenenson
- _ Bobbie & Heshy Brooks
- _ Sharon & Adam Brooks
- _ Saragail Chessin Carpe
- _ Grace Carrion
- _ Shifra & John Caruso
- _ Ellen & Murray Chass
- Laura & Javier Coello
- _ Avi Cohen
- Jordana & Isaac Cohen
- Lisa & Yossi Cohen
- Elianna & Aaron Czinn
- _ Michelle & Zvi Dubin
- Evi & Michael Dworkis
- _ Rose & Ron Dworkis
- Lisa & Jacob Eis
- _ Elfie & Jamie Eisman
- Barbara & Ziv Farajun
- _ Bonnie & William Farbstein
- Robin & Evan Fineman
- _ Stacey & Yitz Finkelstein
- Marina & Fred Fontaine
- Barbara Frank
- Rachel & Jonathan Frank
- Renee & Larry Freund
- Sammy Friedman
- _ Sarit & Jay Friedman
- Lori & David Garfunkel
- Arkady Geltzer
- Chava & Chayim Goldberg
- _ Joan & Barry Goldberg
- Ronnie & Mitchell Goldstein
- Tamar & Yoni Gorelick
- Farnaz & David Gorelik

- Naomi & David Graber
- _ Risa Goldman & Eli Greenbaum _ Alana & Slava Rubin
- _ Dina & Elliot Greene
- _ Margo Greenstein
- _ Ruchama & Jerry Halpern
- _ Joyce Heller
- _ Rebecca Berger & Jay Herman _ Arielle & Jonathan Schachter
- Gail & Elliott Hershkowitz
- _ Liz Jacob
- Olga Jaeger
- _ Vicki & Ian Joseph
- Marc & Elisheva Katz
- _ Deborah & Mitchell Kempin
- _ Georgette Kestler
- _ Debra Kira
- _ Janie & Hymie Kirschenbaum
- _ Tova & Ben Kohane
- Sheree & Hazkiel Kor
- _ Evelyn & Larry Kraut
- _ Al Kustanowitz
- _ Melanie Kwestel
- _ Deborah Lader
- _ Debbie & Ben Lang
- _ Eita Latkin
- _ Vivian Lerner
- Michal & Eliezer Lesser
- _ Sara & Kenny Levine
- Gloria & Robert Lewissohn
- _ Rena & Marc Liebman
- Aliza & Richie Mayer
- Lana & Boris Mihailevsky
- Brett Norton
- _ Miriam & Adam Nudelman
- _ Joanne & Stuart Oppenheim
- _ Laurie Phipps
- Gail & Steven Plotnick
- Amanda & Chaim Pollak
- Shelly Racenstein
- _ Marty Reichardt
- Howard Rein
- Andrea & Greg Riskin
- Tani & Josh Rossman

- _ Angela & Isaac Rozenfeld
- _ Robyn & Jeffrey Safier
- _ Jewel & Robert Safren
- _ Marleny & Alex Salazar
- _ Sara & Natan Santacruz
- Rena & Matt Schaikewitz
- Madeline Schmuckler
- _ Jessica & Andrew Schultz
- Esther Schwed
- Ilana & Nathen Schwitzer
- Margo Heda & Brian Shanblatt
- _ Chana & Rabbi Ely Shestack
- _ Miriam & Eli Shteingart
- _ Sabina & Howard Shultz
- _ Esther Silvestri
- _ Elyce & Steve Smedresman
- _ Tamar & Joe Smith
- _ Ronald Sokoloff
- _ Julie & Dan Sokolsky
- Betsy & Marty Sonnenblick
- _ Randi & Arnie Spier
- Rachelle & Adam Stern
- _ Linda & Michael Stock
- Fern & Oded Strich
- _ Shira & Elliot Teichman
- _ Shirley & Avi Vann
- _ Beth & Steve Wechsler
- Alex & Chana Weidenfeld
- Mimi & Barry Weinraub
- Sami & Zach Weixelbaum
- _ Kira & Andrew Wigod
- _ Seymour Wigod
- _ Shelly & Steven Winchester
- Ray & Steven Wolfson
- Sara Yehaskel
- Stacey & Avi Zanjirian
- _ Susan Zarabi
- Orit & Eli Zezon
- Esther & Matt Zimmelman









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.

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



ויקהל • VAYAKHEL

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.

God's Shadow

In Vayakhel we meet, for the second time, the man who became the symbol of the artist in Judaism, a man by the name of Betzalel.

> Then Moses said to the Israelites, "Know that the Lord has chosen Betzalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and has filled him with a Divine spirit of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge in every craft, to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver, and bronze, as well as cutting stones for setting, carving wood, engaging in every other craft. He has also given him the ability to teach others, together with Oholiav, son of Achisamach of the tribe of Dan. He has filled them with the skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in skyblue, purple, or scarlet wool or fine linen, and as weavers. They will be able to carry out all the necessary work and design.

Ex. 35:30-35

It would be Betzalel (together with Ohaliab) who would make the Tabernacle and its furnishings and be celebrated through the centuries as the inspired craftsman who used his skills for the greater glory of God.

The aesthetic dimension of Judaism has tended to be downplayed, at least until the modern era, for obvious reasons. The Israelites worshipped the invisible God who transcended the universe. Other than the human person, God has no image. Even when He revealed Himself to the people at Sinai:

"You heard the sound of words but saw no image; there was only a Voice."

Deut. 4:12

Given the intense connection – until around the eighteenth century – between art and religion, image-making was seen as potentially idolatrous. Hence the second of the Ten Commandments:

"Do not make for yourself any carved image or likeness of in the form of any creature in heaven above or the earth beneath or in the waters below."

Ex. 20:4

This concern continued long after the biblical era. The Greeks, who achieved unrivalled excellence in the visual arts, were, in the religious sphere, still a pagan people of myth and mystery, while the Romans had a disturbing tendency to turn Caesars into gods and erect statues to them.

However, the visual dimension was not wholly missing from Judaism. There are visible symbols, like tzitzit and tefillin. There is, according to the Sages, a meta-mitzvah known as *hiddur mitzvah* — "beautifying the command" — to try to ensure that all objects used in the performance of a command are as beautiful as possible.

The most significant intrusion of the aesthetic dimension was in the Tabernacle itself, its framework and hangings, its furniture, the cherubim above the ark, the menorah, and the vestments of the priests and the High Priest, *lekavod uletifaret*, "for dignity and beauty" (Ex. 28:2).

Maimonides in *The Guide for the Perplexed* (III:45) says that most people are influenced by aesthetic considerations, which is why the Sanctuary was designed to inspire admiration and awe; why a continual light burned there; why the priestly robes were so impressive; why there was music in the form of the Levitical choir; and why incense was burned to cover the smell of the sacrifices.

Maimonides himself, in the work known as *The Eight Chapters* – the introduction to his commentary on *Mishnah Avot* – speaks about the therapeutic power of beauty and its importance in counteracting depression:

Someone afflicted with melancholy may dispel it by listening to music and various kinds of song, by strolling in gardens, by experiencing beautiful buildings, by associating with beautiful pictures, and similar sorts of things that broaden the soul...

The Eight Chapters, chapter 5

Art, in short, is balm to the soul. In modern times, the thinker who spoke most eloquently about aesthetics was Rav Kook. In his *Commentary to the Siddur*, he wrote:

"Literature, painting, and sculpture give material expression to all the spiritual concepts implanted in the depths of the human soul, and as long as even one single line hidden in the depth of the soul has not been given outward expression, it is the task of art [avodat ha-umanut] to bring it out."

Olat Re-ayah, II, 3

Evidently these remarks were considered controversial, so in later editions of the *Commentary* the phrase "Literature, painting, and sculpture" was removed and in its place was written, "Literature, its design and tapestry."

The name Betzalel was adopted by the artist Boris Schatz for the School of Arts and Crafts he founded in Israel in 1906, and Rav Kook wrote a touching letter in support of its creation. He saw the renaissance of art in the Holy Land as a symbol of the regeneration of the Jewish People in its own land, landscape and birthplace. Judaism in the Diaspora, removed from a natural connection with its own historic environment, was inevitably cerebral and spiritual, "alienated." Only in Israel would an authentic Jewish aesthetic emerge, strengthened by and in turn strengthening Jewish spirituality.

Perhaps the most moving of all remarks Rav Kook made about art came in the course of a conversation he had with a Jewish sculptor:

"When I lived in London I used to visit the National Gallery, and my favourite pictures were those of Rembrandt. I really think that Rembrandt was a *tzaddik*. Do you know that when I first saw Rembrandt's works, they reminded me of the rabbinic statement about the creation of light?

We are told that when God created light [on the first day of Creation, as opposed to the natural light of the sun on the fourth day], it was so strong and pellucid that one could see from one end of the world to the other, but God was afraid that the wicked might abuse it. What did He do? He reserved that light for the righteous in the World to Come. But now and then there are great men who are blessed and privileged to see it. I think that Rembrandt was one of them, and the light in his pictures

is the very light that God created on Genesis day."1

I have often wondered what it was about Rembrandt's paintings that so enthralled the Rav. Rembrandt lived in the Jewish quarter of Amsterdam, knew Jews and painted them, as well as painting many biblical scenes, though the closeness or otherwise of his connection with Jews has been the subject of controversy. Rav Kook's admiration for the artist had, I suspect, nothing to do with this and everything to do with the light Rembrandt saw in the faces of ordinary people, without any attempt to beautify them. His work let us see the transcendental quality of the human, the only thing in the universe on which God set His image.

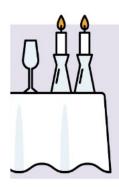
Art in Hebrew – *omanut* – has a semantic connection with *emunah*, "faith" or "faithfulness." A true artist is faithful both to his materials and to the task, teaching us:

To see a world in a grain of sand, And a heaven in a wild flower, Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, And eternity in an hour.²

The name Betzalel means, "in the shadow of God." Art is the shadow cast by the radiance of God that suffuses all things:

The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil.3

And as Goethe said: "Where there is much light, the shadow is deep." 4 When art lets us see the wonder of creation as God's work and the human person as God's image, it becomes a powerful part of the religious life, with one proviso. The Greeks believed in the holiness of beauty. Jews believe in hadrat kodesh, the beauty of holiness: not art for art's sake but art as a disclosure of the ultimate artistry of the Creator. That is how omanut enhances emunah, how art adds wonder to faith.



Around the Shabbat Table

- 1. How does Betzalel's story inspire us to use our talents for meaningful purposes?
- 2. Can you think of other times in the Tanach where someone uses their "artistic" talents to connect with their spirituality?
- 3. Rav Kook believed in the deep connection between art and spirituality. How can art help us express or understand our spiritual beliefs?
- 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/Vayakhel/Gods-shadow/



● ● ● ● | RABBISACKS.ORG

- ¹ Rav Avraham Kook, article in The Jewish Chronicle; London; 13 September 1935, p. 21.
- ² From Auguries of Innocence by William Blake.
- ³ From God's Grandeur by Gerard Manley Hopkins.
- ⁴ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Götz von Berlichingen with the Iron Hand, translated by Walter Scott, London; 1799.