



# Menucha v'Simcha



A PARSHA WEEKLY BY THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL

Candle Lighting: 7:26

**Parshas Shoftim 5772**

Vol. 8 Issue 1

## DVAR TORAH

### Two Battlefronts, One Strategy

By Rabbi Yosef Prupas

The following story was printed in the London Jewish Chronicle on February 13, 1885: It is recorded in the history of the Crimean War. During the battle of Redan on Sevastopol (a Russian port city on the Black Sea), an English officer who was leading one of the attacking parties, had a musket leveled at him by a Russian officer hiding behind one of the fortifications. The Russian officer was about to pull the trigger when the English officer made an exclamation. Another Russian officer who happened to hear it, struck the musket aside and grasping the hand of the English officer said, "He is my brother." and pulled him behind the Russian lines, thus saving his life.

We find multiple examples of such stories occurring during World War One, and during various battles the Israeli army had with its enemies, where Jewish soldiers were miraculously saved after yelling "*Shema Yisroel*" moments before they thought they were about to die. The source for this would seem to be in this week's *Parsha*. When detailing the preparations for battle, the *Passuk* (20, 2-3) states, "The Kohen shall approach and he shall speak to the people... "*Shema Yisroel*", today you are coming near to the battle against your enemies..." Rashi commenting on the words "*Shema Yisroel*" quotes a *Gemarah* in *Sota* (42a) which says, "Even if there is no merit in you but the recitation of *Shema* alone, you are worthy that He should save you." Although the *Gemara* in *Sota* says clearly that it is the merit of constant recital of *Krias Shema* morning and night which saves them, R'Shlomo Zalman Aurebach posits that the simple saying of *Shema Yisroel* alone would be enough. He bases it on what we recite on almost a daily basis in the *Tachanun* "*Shomer Yisroel* [Guardian of Israel] protects the remnant of Israel... those who declare "*Shema Yisroel*."

This concept also exists in regard to spiritual battles. One of the solutions given by the *Gemara* in *Berachos* (5a) to one who is faced with extreme temptations by his *Yetzer Horah* is to recite *Shema*. What is it about recit-

ing *Krias Shema* that brings about such miraculous results?

The answer can be found in the Maharal, in his commentary *Gur Aryeh*, in this week's *Parsha*. The Maharal explains that the reason why saying *Shema Yisroel* brings about victory, is because when doing so one is expressing his firm belief in the Oneness of Hashem, he is recognizing that the only reality in the world is G-d, "*Ain Od Milvado*." A person who lives with that belief puts himself in the "camp" of G-d, a world where the clear reality is that nothing can exist in opposition to Him. Therefore both physically and spiritually one achieves salvation from any impending danger. All physical or spiritual impediments fade away, for they only exist for the express purpose of bringing one closer to Hashem. It is important at this time of year to contemplate this, for as Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler writes, we are either heading towards Hashem or away, there is no middle ground. Your mindset depends on you. May we receive Divine Assistance to direct our thoughts in the right direction and may this Elul be a meaningful one.



## DVAR HALACHA

### The Laws of *Tefillas Haderech*

Adapted from the *shiurim* of  
Rabbi Yochanan Eskenazi

The source for *Tefillas Haderech* is a *Gemara* Brachos (29b) which states: "Eliyahu Hanavi told Rabbi Yehuda the brother of Rav Salla Chasida... and when you set out on the way beg leave of your King and then set out." The *Gemara* [ibid] explains that this means one is required to recite *Tefillas Haderech* when one travels.

The obligation to recite *Tefillas Haderech* occurs whether one is traveling by foot or any other mode of transportation. (Mishna Berura 110:30) Even if one travels the exact route each day he is obligated say *Tefillas Haderech* each time. (Emes L'Yaakov OC 110:ftnt. 139) Additionally, one has to travel a distance of a *Parsa* [8000 *amos*] (Shulchan Aruch 110:7)



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which practically speaking is approximately 3 miles. (Halachically Speaking 1:pg. 75 quoting Rabbi Belsky shlit"a) The Poskim disagree whether it is the actual distance that brings about the requirement, or the time it takes to travel a *parsa*, which is approximately 72 minutes. The minhag of Bnei Ashkenaz is to base it on the distance [3 miles]. (Halachically Speaking 1:pg. 75 quoting Rabbi Belsky shlit"a and Reb Y.S. Eliyashiv zt"l) The Bnei Sefard, on the other hand, follow the custom that it is the time of 72 minutes which creates the obligation. (Shu"t Yabe'ah Omer 1:13) However, if one is travel-

ling in a dangerous place (even if he will be travelling less than a *parsa*), one is required to recite *Tefillas Hade-rech* with a *Brachah*. (MB 110:30) This is because the reason why the full text [with the *Brachah*] is only obligated when there is above stated requirements is because less than that is considered a "short trip" and it is uncommon to encounter any danger in such a short distance, if there is a known danger then the obligation would certainly apply. (Mishna Berura 110:30) To be continued next week. 

## Kollel News

### 1. This Shabbos at the Kollel

#### Friday, August 24:

8:25-8:50 a.m.: Rabbi Prupas's Chumash Shiur

7:26 p.m.: Candle Lighting

7:44 p.m.: Shkiya/Sunset

#### Shabbos, August 25:

8:15 a.m.: Shacharis

Chaburas Chacham Lev

Rabbi Eskenazi's Ramban Shiur

9:06/ 9:42 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

6:00 p.m.: Mincha

7:42 p.m.: Shkiya/Sunset

8:54 p.m.: 72 Minutes

### 2. Concepts in Yoreh Deah Shiur:

Begins THIS Sunday! Rabbi Biberfeld is beginning a new shiur in Elul on Concepts in Yoreh Deah on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30. This in-depth halacha shiur, for intermediate to advanced level will present the major topics in basar b'cholov and ta'aruvos from the lumdu to halacha l'maaseh.

Sugya # 1: 3 shiurim on חתיכה נעשה בבילה

Those interested should please contact Rabbi Biberfeld at [ryb@verizon.net](mailto:ryb@verizon.net).

### 3. Introducing: First Seder- A Bais Medrash Program For Men

Introducing the "First Seder" Bais Medrash learning program at the Philadelphia Community Kollel.

Beginning in September of 2012, Philadelphia area men of all ages can enjoy a robust Bais Medrash environment that caters to a broad audience. First Seder is held at the Philadelphia Community Kollel on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with a variety of options that allow for many scheduling limitations and combinations.

The program covers a diverse range of intriguing Torah topics and features easy-to follow interactive shiurim delivered by experienced, dynamic lecturers. Program participants can also choose to learn the

Gemara topics covered by the shiurim with their own chavrusa in an interactive environment.

For more details, see our website, [phillykollel.org](http://phillykollel.org).

### 4. Community Wide Teshuva Initiative

In Memory of Philip and Yudie Borck, a"h

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN - Join Today!!

The Lower Merion community-wide initiative, is designed to bring us together to make use of the power of teshuvah by way of studying a 5-minute-a-day lesson from the best-selling book by Rabbi Heshy Kleinman. The program is in full swing and runs from Rosh Chodesh Elul, Shabbos, August 18th through Yom Kippur 5773 and is dedicated in memory of our dear community members, Mr. Philip Borck, z"l and his beloved son Yudie Borck, z"l. There is no cost to join and a free book will be distributed to all participants. To sign up and for more information, please visit <http://powerofteshuvahlm.weebly.com/>.

### Community Announcements

#### Mazel Tov To:

**Mr. and Mrs. Les and Wende Toll** also upon the birth of a grandson, born to Jeff and Alanna Schwartz!

**Rabbi and Mrs. Yaacov Moshe and Lieba Silverman** on the birth of a daughter, Chana Baila!

**Dr. and Mrs. Ben and Malka Liebman** upon the birth and bris of their son, Avraham Shlomo!

**Dr. and Dr. Jonathan and Jackie Gomberg** upon the marriage of Arielle to Joel Landau!

**Mr. and Mrs. Les and Wende Toll** on the marriage of their daughter Adina to Dan Menasha!

**Mr. and Mrs. Scott and Sharon Seligsohn and Dr. Rachel Hachen** on the upcoming marriage of their children Ezra and Ma'ayan.

**Dr. and Steve Bachrach and Mrs. Pearl Elias** and upon the birth of granddaughter, born to Rebecca and Ari Elias-Bachrach in Jerusalem!

**Dr. and Mrs. Bert and Debbie Zauderer** upon the engagement of their granddaughter Tziporah Zauderer to Yonatan Zahavi.

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Condolences to:

Mrs. Eileen Stieglitz, Mr. Jonathan Stieglitz and the entire Stieglitz family on the passing of Dr. Barry Stieglitz, z"l

If you would like to receive Menucha Vesimcha by weekly email or to sponsor an issue of Menucha Vesimcha in someone's honor / memory, please contact the editor at: [menuchavesimcha@verizon.net](mailto:menuchavesimcha@verizon.net)

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**Good Shabbos!**