

For the week of: July 24, 2010
Av 13, 5770

B'nai Israel Congregation

The Orthodox Synagogue For ALL Jews In Hampton Roads

Parshas V'Eschanan

Davening & Learning Schedule

Friday 7/23

Daf Yomi 6:00 AM
Shachris 7:00 AM
Mincha 6:30 PM
Candle Lighting 7:00 PM

Shabbos 7/24

Shacharis 9:00 AM
Bnos off for Summer
Pirkei Avos 5:00 PM
Daf Yomi 6:10 PM
Sefer Shmuel 7:10 PM
Mincha 7:50 PM
Ma'ariv/Havdalah 9:03 PM

Sunday 7/25

Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
Shachris 8:00 AM
Rosh Hashanah class 9:00 AM
Mincha 8:00 PM
Halacha class cancelled

Monday 7/26

Daf Yomi 6:00 AM
Shachris 6:45 AM
Parsha Class 7:00 PM
Mincha 8:00 PM

Tuesday 7/27

Shachris 7:00 AM
Ladies Class 12:00 N
Mincha 8:00 PM

Wednesday 7/28

Daf Yomi 6:00 AM
Shachris 7:00 AM
Partners in Torah 7:00 PM
Mincha 8:00 PM

Thursday 7/29

Daf Yomi 6:00 AM
Shachris 6:45 AM
Cantorial Class 7:00 PM
Mincha 8:00 PM

Friday 7/30

Daf Yomi 6:00 AM
Shachris 7:00 AM
Mincha 6:30 PM
Candle Lighting 7:00 PM

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Barton Tanenbaum in honor of the Aufruf of their son Robert. Mazel Tov.

This week's Shalosh Seudos is sponsored in loving memory of Allen S. Bridge, DDS by Esther Bridge, Sid & Amy Bridge, Melissa & Seth Schoenfeld, Sara & Yissachar Lieb and Aaron & Ruth Cohen.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

RABBI SILVER'S WEEKLY CLASSES

Shabbos:	40 minutes before Mincha: Navi (Sefer Shmuel 2)	
Sunday:	Morning: Gemara Rosh Hashana	Night: Halacha Class
Monday:	Evening: Philosophies of the Parsha	
Tuesday:	Noon: Tehillim Class [Ladies only]	

BNAI ISRAEL 3RD ANNUAL HALACHA IN BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

For those of you who missed this wonderful opportunity to learn about how a Bais Din works, the Symposium was digitally recorded and will be available through the Bnai Israel Website at www.bnaiisrael.org

CHALLOS BAKED TO ORDER

Order Challah and/or challah rolls, fresh baked in time for Shabbos, July 30.

Challah: \$6.00 each / Rolls: \$4.00 for 1/2 dozen

Place your order by phone or email to Helen directly Tuesday, July 27 at 8:00 P.M., due to the freshness of this, late orders cannot be accepted.

Pick up challah Thursday, July 29 at the Shul, after 5:00 PM

Helen email: hgriffin@cox.net or phone: 489-4330

This is a B'nai Israel fund raiser.

PICTURE THIS

When was the last time you had pictures taken of your family? Take this opportunity to capture them now. Since the weather is nice again, we are starting our family photography fundraising for Bnai Israel again.

Pictures can be taken inside or outside, at a location of your choosing.

You will receive a CD with all your images so that you can make copies, prints or email them to friends and family. The cost is only \$35.00!

Contact Helen for an appointment.

BIRTHDAYS

Inna Brodsky		7/25
Minna B. Haber	7th	7/25
Kevin Lefcoe		7/26
Dr Gary Siegel		7/26
Jeanene Anker		7/27
Eliezer M. Berman	5th	7/27
Harry Weisberg		7/27
Dr. Andrew Fekete		7/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Smith		
	36th	7/26
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Wilson		
	19th	7/28

YAHARZEITS

Allen S. Bridge	7/24
Miriam Deutsch	7/26
Emma Coleman	7/27
Rose Mirman	7/27
Paul Orenstein	7/27
Samuel Sinkler	7/27
Mildred Becker	7/29
Shabtai Drory	7/29
Phyllis R. Berkwit	7/30

Please visit our website, especially the new affiliates tag at www.bnaiisrael.org

The Easy Commandment

Honor your father and mother, as the L-rd your G-d has commanded you, so that you may live long. (Devarim 5:16) Why should we honor our fathers and mothers? The Torah gives us one reason in Parashas Shemos (20:12), "So that you may live long." In Parashas Vaes'chanan, however, the Torah gives an additional reason, "As the L-rd your G-d has commanded you." What is the significance of this additional phrase?

The Meshech Chachmah refers to the Talmud Yerushalmi that considers honoring parents an "easy commandment." Every person understands that debts have to be repaid. If someone lends you \$100,000 when you need it, you would be only too happy to repay the money once you have enough of your own. It would not be a hard thing to do.

By the same token, every person also understands that he has a moral obligation to repay his debt of gratitude to his parents. After all, the cost of raising a child must be at least between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Not to mention the time, effort and energy parents invest in their children. Therefore, the least people can do is honor their parents. It is not a hard thing to make such a small payment on such a large debt.

The Torah tells us here that this is not the proper motivation for honoring parents. It is not the self-evident obligation to make at least a small payment on a debt owed the parents. It is an obligation incumbent on us solely because "the L-rd your G-d has commanded you" to do so.

The Torah waited until Parashas Vaes'chanan to make this point, because it becomes most clear after forty years in the desert. During those years, raising children was easier than it ever was, before or since. They did not have to be fed. There was manna from heaven. They did not need to be given to drink. There was water from Miriam's Well. They did not need new shoes and clothing all the time. Nothing ever wore out. Most likely they didn't need orthodontic braces either, because life in the desert was paradise. And still, the Torah demanded that parents be honored. Clearly, the obligation was to obey Hashem's commandment rather than repay a debt of gratitude. By the time the Jewish people had lived through the era of the desert, they could relate to the mitzvah of honoring parents as an independent obligation.

How far does this go? How much do you have to do for your parents? The Talmud responds (Kiddushin 31a) to this question with the famous story about a non-Jew from Ashkelon by the name of Dama bar Nesinah.

The Sages once needed a stone for the Urim v'Tumim, and they heard that Dama had exactly the stone they needed. A delegation came to see him and offer to pay him a princely sum for the stone. The stone was in a strongbox, with the key under his father's pillow. Dama did not disturb him.

"I cannot help you," he told the Sages. "My father is sleeping, and I wouldn't disturb his sleep."

The Sages left.

A year later, a perfect red heifer, suitable for a parah adumah, was born in Dama's herd. The Sages came to purchase it.

"How much do you want for it?"

"I know that you would give me any price I ask," he replied. "But I only want the amount of money I lost by not waking my father last year."

This story establishes the parameters of the mitzvah of honoring parents. The Talmud uses this story to establish the parameters of human nature.

As parents get older, they can become querulous and demanding. They can test the patience of their children. Sometimes, honoring parents under such circumstances can take a lot of patience and forbearance. Is there a limit to such patience? How much patience can be expected of a person? Is there a point where a person is allowed to run out of patience and be exempt from this mitzvah?

This is what the story about Dama bar Nesinah teaches us. The Sages were offering him a huge sum of money for the single stone they needed for the Urim v'Tumim. He knew that if he could only get the key, the money would be his. What thoughts must have gone through his mind? Maybe I'll make a little noise and he'll wake up. Maybe I'll slide my hand under the pillow very slowly so that I'll be able to get the key without waking him up. He must have been very tempted. But he didn't give in. He was able to honor his father even under such circumstances. This was the extent of what human nature is capable of.

It follows, therefore, that if Dama bar Nesinah could have the forbearance to forgo such a huge sum of money and allow his father to sleep, certainly a descendant of Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov can find it in himself to honor his parents under any and all circumstances.