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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2022
Tammuz 5782

SHABBAT TIMES

🕒 Parasha - 🕒 Candle Lighting
🕒 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)
For service times see page 3

8 & 9 July – 10 Tammuz

🕒 Chukat

🕒 5:12 – 🕒 6:04

15 & 16 July – 17 Tammuz

🕒 Balak

🕒 5:15 – 🕒 6:07

22 & 23 July – 24 Tammuz

🕒 Pinchas

🕒 5:19 – 🕒 6:10

29 & 30 July – 2 Av

🕒 Matot-Masei

🕒 5:22 – 🕒 6:13

5 & 6 August – 9 Av

🕒 Devarim (Shabbat Chazon)

🕒 5:25 – 🕒 6:16

RABBI'S MESSAGE

I am writing this message and editing this newsletter on my return flight from New York. The looming deadline is only part of the reason. Ironically, at 35,000 feet above ground, I have a reliable power point for my laptop as well as fairly reliable Wi-Fi connection, which once I land I can no longer take for granted.

After 10 days of pure blessing and rejoicing, it is going to be an adjustment. Coming back from visiting family is always hard. Especially when it comes after the amazing simcha we just celebrated—a week-long celebration of aufruf-wedding-sheva brachot, surrounded by all our children and virtually all our grandchildren. A lot of food (way too much), jumping from one child's home to another

and meeting the out-of-towners in ice cream parlors and coffee shops.

According to the current schedule I will be returning to a dark and cold Stage 6 house from the airport, alone (my wife has stayed on). It is going to be eerily quiet and I am afraid somewhat sad. I could easily slide into a depression but I will not.

There is a cute animation on the inflight screen in front of me, that shows point of departure and destination, with the figure of an airplane gliding across slowly, traversing oceans and continents. I watch it over and over and fixate on the two cities, New York and Johannesburg, as I count my blessings. I thank Hashem over and over for the blessings of family, even if far away, for the health and ability to visit and be together. Then my eyes slides across and down to Johannesburg, and I thank Hashem for my home, our amazing community and the beautiful country I now call home. No doubt we have our problems, but these may not be given any weighting when computing blessings.

I challenge you all to do the same. Give your troubles a zero-weighting when you assess your overall happiness. It will not take them away, but will put them all in perspective. As the saying goes, quit telling G-d how big your troubles are and rather tell your troubles how big your G-d is. And focus on the good things.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

FROM THE REBBETZIN

Taking pictures is not necessarily the most fun part of a simcha. For an hour and a half we stood in the hall, children running up and down. Not always co operating with the requests or demands of their parents and the photographer.

Following instructions, often contradictory, of everyone who is supposed or not supposed to be giving them. Trying to ignore the time pressures being imposed on us. All this for pictures we will get long after the event, and will hardly be interested in anymore.

But for me, mom of this gang kah, picture time is a good opportunity for reflection. Seeing each family, each group of people, each individual and stopping for a few moments to think about them.

BH we are blessed with a beautiful crew kah. A group of accomplished, capable and successful people. Each in their own homes, cities, work places and schools. They laugh together, they miss each other when they are apart, and they love to connect when they have this chance.

As each family, or group went to have their picture taken I had time to thank Hashem profusely for the blessings. I also had time to ask, demand or beg for the various things they need that I know about. This I think is the craziness of galus that with all the blessings there are still shopping lists of things we want and need. May Hashem grant us all a time of pure and total simcha.

Have a good month.

Rivky

DVAR TORAH***He Who Must Not Be Named: Responding to Mass Murders****By Rabbi Benjamin Blech
(aish.com)*

Grief, despair, anguish – all of these words express, in the limited way words can convey heartbreaking pain, our response to the horror of this past week’s murderous rampage in the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas that took the lives of 19 children and two teachers.

In the aftermath of the Columbine massacre, a few months after teen shooters brutally murdered 12 of her classmates as well as her father who tried to intervene and save intended victims, Coni Sanders was standing in line at a supermarket with her young daughter when they came face-to-face with a shocking magazine cover. It prominently pictured the two gunmen responsible for one of the deadliest school shootings in American history. Coni realized that very few people know anything about her father who had saved countless lives, whereas virtually everyone knew the names and the tiniest of details about the murderers.

What do the killers want above all? Money is not the greatest motivator. Above all it is fame and notoriety that are the primary goals of those who commit the most horrific crimes – assured of the media spotlight for weeks, if not months and years.

Adam Lankford, a criminologist at the University of Alabama, who spent years studying the effects of media coverage on future shooters, concluded that in all probability the most powerful deterrent to copycat crimes is to ensure that the murderers never achieve the personal fame that served as primary psychological motive. “A lot of these shooters want to be treated like celebrities. They want to be famous. So the key is not to give them that treatment.”

A mere four days after the 2017 Las Vegas concert shooting, an event which remains the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history, Lankford publicly urged journalists to refrain from using shooter’s name, photos, or writing in exhaustive detail about his supposed motivations - ideas which could inspire others to justify similar actions.

James Alan Fox, the Lipman Family Professor of Criminology, Law, and Public Policy and former dean at Northeastern University, singles out over-the-top coverage that includes irrelevant details about the killers, such as their writings and their backgrounds, items not only irrelevant but which “unfortunately and unnecessarily humanizes them.” It grants them the gift of being perceived human when our efforts ought to concentrate on their inhumanity.

Many law enforcement agencies have adopted the lead of the Aurora Illinois police chief who spoke just once the name of the gunman who killed five coworkers and wounded five officers: “I said his name one time for the media, and I will never let it cross my lips again,” Chief Ziman wrote in a Facebook post.

It is an approach that I believe has a precedent in the Bible.

The Torah recognized the most appropriate punishment for ultimate evil: “G-d will blot out his name from under heaven” (Deuteronomy 29:20).

King Solomon put it this way in his book of Proverbs: “The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot (Proverbs 10:7).

Thankfully, the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Team, in collaboration with the FBI, developed the “don’t name them” campaign to minimize and/or to totally avoid naming and describing individuals involved in mass shootings.

A name, according to the Talmud, is our most prized possession. The Hebrew word for name, shem, is represented by the two letters central to the word neshamah, soul. Those who, by their actions, destroy the sanctity of their souls no longer deserve the preservation of their names.

They do not merit fame – only infamy.

THE MONTH OF TAMMUZ

By Menachem Posner
(chabad.org)

Take the Month of Tammuz Quiz

- Which biblical holiday takes place in Tammuz?
 - Shavuot
 - Sukkot
 - Rosh Hashanah
 - None of the above
- What do we do on the 17th day of Tammuz?
 - We fast
 - We read the 17th Psalm 17 times
 - We pick dandelions and wild myrrh
 - We sell lemonade to thirsty travelers
- What happened on Tammuz 17?
 - Moses broke the Tablets
 - An idol was placed in the Holy Temple
 - Roman armies breached the walls of Jerusalem
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- Which period begins on Tammuz 17?
 - The Three Weeks, when we mourn the destruction of the Temples
 - The Month of Jerusalem, when we recall our nation's glory
 - The Omer, when we cry for the students of Rabbi Akiva

5. Counting from Nissan, what number month is Tammuz?

- 3
- 4
- 7
- 9

6. What is the mazal (zodiac) of Tammuz?

- Aries, tleh (ram)
- Taurus, shor (ox)
- Cancer, sartan (crab)
- Gemini, teomim (twins)

7. Does the word "Tammuz" appear in Tanach?

- No, none of the months do
- Yes, in Esther, where it is said to be the month Haman married
- Yes, in Lamentations, where it is foretold that bad things would happen
- Yes, in Ezekiel, where it is the name of an idol

8. Which Hebrew month comes before Tammuz?

- Iyar
- Sivan
- Av
- October

9. Which Hebrew month comes after Tammuz?

- Av
- Elul
- Cheshvan
- Kislev

10. True or false: Tammuz is the only Jewish month to have 31 days

- True
- False

Id 2a 3c 4a 5b 6c 7d 8b 9a 10b

A STORY

The year was 1974. Israel was just beginning to recover from the devastating Yom Kippur war in which close to 3000 Israelis were killed, and over 9000 were wounded. The then Chief Rabbi of North Tel Aviv, Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau had journeyed to New York to visit the late Lubavitcher Rebbe and seek his advice.

During the course of their conversation, the Rebbe asked Rabbi Lau what was the mood "in the streets of Israel," after having faced such a challenging war. Rabbi Lau responded that people are asking, "What will be?"

Upon hearing these words, the Rebbe grabbed Rabbi Lau's arm and passionately replied, "Jews don't ask: 'What will be?' Jews ask: 'What are we going to do?'"

How true. "What will be?" is the question of the passive and visionless being, roaming through life without a direction of purpose and meaning. But "what are we going to do?" is the question of true leaders and difference-makers, who rise from the challenges of the past and the present, to march forward and upward into the opportunities of the future, with unending deeds of goodness and kindness.

(lchaimweekly.org)

SERVICE TIMES SHACHARIT (A.M.)

Monday & Thursday	7:15
Shabbat & Festivals	9:30

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)

Friday	5:20
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MAZALTOV

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

ENGAGEMENTS

- Philip & Rilla Jacobson on the engagement of their grand-daughter Elke Moshel to Aaron Zalcman in Jerusalem.

MARRIAGES

- Philip & Rilla Jacobson on the marriage of their grand-daughter Leah Flax to Yitschok Tanzer in Jerusalem.

BIRTHDAYS

- Maish Brenner on the occasion of his 91st birthday on the 16th July.
- Donald Krausz on the occasion of his 92nd birthday on the 17th July.

ANNIVERSARIES

- David & Melanie Jacobs on the occasion of their 35th anniversary on the 5th July.

REFUAH SHLEIMA

We wish a Speedy recovery to:

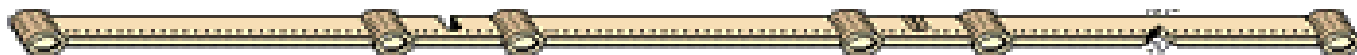
- Sam Benard

**BEREAVEMENTS**

We wish long life to:

- Della Berkowitz and family on the death of her daughter Julie Treger.
- Shmuelly Nudelman and family on the death of his mother, Blima

May Hashem comfort them and their families among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and grant them long life.

**FAST OF 17 TAMUZ**

Sunday 17 July

Fast Begins: 5:41 a.m. – Fast ends: 5:52 p.m.

The Three Weeks is an annual mourning period which begins on the 17th of the Hebrew month of Tammuz, the fast day that marks the day when the walls of Jerusalem were breached by the Romans in 69 CE.

It reaches its climax and concludes with the fast of the 9th of Av, the date when both Holy Temples were set aflame. This is the saddest day of the Jewish calendar, and it is also the date that many other tragedies befell our people.

FAST OF 9 AV

Sunday 7 August

Fast Begins: Saturday 5:41 p.m. – Fast ends: Sunday 6:06 p.m.

