

**MORNING MIDRASHA CLASSES FOR WOMEN**

**Sunday - Thursday 10:15 - 11:00 am**

**Sunday Rambam's Hilchot Teshuvah** – "Laws of Repentance" by Maimonides (Spain 1135- Egypt 1204) codifies the concept and the path to repentance. **Monday Kitzur Shulchan Aruch**- "Abridged Code of Law" by Rabbi Shlomo Ganzfried (Hungary 1804-1886) is a classical compendium of Jewish Law. This class is devoted to studying the laws which a Jew is most likely to need in his lifetime. Currently we are studying the laws of Berachot (blessings on foods). **Tuesday Sefer HaToda'ah** -- "The Book of Our Heritage" by Rabbi Eliyahu Kitov (Poland 1912- Israel 1976), follows the months of the year and for each month explains clearly the observances of each festival or religious occasion, adding copious insights, reasons, meanings and allusions from an extraordinarily wide range of sources. **Wednesday Menorat Hamaor** – "The Menorah of Illumination" by Rabbi Yitzchak Aboab (Spain, of the late 14th Century) is one of the great classics of Jewish literature, with the intent to illumine the minds and the hearts of the Jews. *Menorat Hamaor* is a masterwork consisting of seven separate and distinct works ("seven lamps"), each dealing with a separate and distinct area of Jewish thought. Currently, we will be learning the concepts of Hessed. **Thursday The Weekly Torah Portion**. This is a comprehensive review of the weekly Torah portion with analysis and insights from the major commentator bringing out modern applications.

**EVENING PROGRAMS**

**Sunday to Thursday Right after Minha-Arbit (for men)**

Daily Chapter of Mishna – *Currently Seder Moed.*

**Monday (for Men)**

**Gemara Baba Kama** – "advanced"  
8:30 to 9:00 PM: Chavruta and  
9:00 to 9:45 PM Shiur followed by Arbit.

**Tuesday 8:30-9:30 PM (for men & women)**

**The Story of Yosef Part III, Parashat Vayigash (on website)**

Recently starting *Parashat Vayigash*, these

weekly lectures are geared to understanding the hidden meaning behind all the events in Yoseph's life. We penetrate beyond the simple meaning to the Humash to reveal the hidden gems hidden between the lines.

**Please inquire about our full schedule of classes for college students.**

**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

- 1) David & Jessica's youth groups every other Shabbat morning and afternoon.
- 2) The Father and Son & The Mother & daughter programs plus a weekly Melaveh Malka for them all !

**Community Information**

**Crave for that special Hamin or favorite Gefilte Fish? We are starting a Kiddush Club!** You may sign-up and contribute any amount towards our **Kiddush "Club"** fund and co-sponsorship will be announced when the "pot is full"! Please sign-up with Mikhael or Ronen. You may also use our Kiddush / Seuda Shelishit sign-up sheet in advance for individual sponsorship opportunities. Thanks!

The **Tu B'Chopped Challenge** will be postponed to a later date. Stay tuned for more info...

**Sponsors**

The *Shabbat Kiddush* is sponsored by **The Rumshisky Family**  
In honor of their daughter's Bat Mitzvah

**Mazel Tov to Sarah Rumshiskaya !**

**Torah Riddle**

**Solution to last week's riddle:** (wide-spread Jewish practice wasn't suggested by a "great" person?) Sheva Berachot mentioned by Lavan who told Yaakov to "fulfill the week of this one" referring to Leah. **This week's riddle:** Two different and unrelated activities, each one is forbidden when done by itself but when done at the same time they are both permissible. What are they?

Please visit us @ [www.sephardicboston.org](http://www.sephardicboston.org)

**Parashat Va'era**

**שבת וארא**

**26<sup>th</sup> Tevet 5772**

*Shabbat, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2012*

**Sephardic Community of Greater Boston**

*Minha & Candle Lighting Parashat Va'era* 4:22 pm <sup>88</sup>  
*Maqam Hoseni*

**Shaharit on Shabbat** 8:15 am  
Latest time/Shema 8:48 am  
New Ashkenaz Minyan Shaharit 9:00 am  
*Followed by Kiddush David and Jessica's Kids Program* 10:00 am

**Minha on Shabbat** 4:00 pm  
*Followed by Seuda Shelishit David's Taamin Class* After Minha

**Shabbat ends** 5:30 pm  
*Candle Lighting next week* 4:31 pm

*Yesod veShoresh Haavoda* Mon-Fri at 6:15 am  
**Daily Shaharit** 6:45 am & 7:00 on Sunday  
Shaharit New Ashk. 6:45 am & 8:00 on Sunday  
**Daily Minha** 4:25 pm

**Father & Son Program 6:30 pm**  
No girls program (Bais Yaakov play)

**Rosh Hodesh Shevat will be on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Rabbi Aaron Hamaoui**  
74 Corey Road - Brighton MA 02135



FOUR CUPS OF WINE



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Please send notices you would like to see printed to [mdanan@gmail.com](mailto:mdanan@gmail.com)

## Summary of the *Parasha*

**1st Aliya:** The year is 2448 and Moshe had unsuccessfully confronted Pharaoh. The situation had gotten worse, not better, and Hashem reassured Moshe that in fact the redemption was about to begin. The 4 statements of redemption are stated for which we have the 4 cups of wine at the Passover Seder. **2nd & 3rd Aliyot:** Moshe's Yichus (lineage) is established. He is 80 years old and Aaron is 83. **4th Aliya:** Moshe performed the miracle of the "staff turning to a serpent" and performed the first and second plagues. **5th Aliya:** Moshe performed the third plague and forewarned Pharaoh about the fourth. **6th Aliya:** The fourth, fifth, and sixth plagues were performed, and Moshe forewarned Pharaoh regarding the seventh. **7th Aliya:** The seventh plague was performed and Pharaoh "hardens his heart" and refused to let the Jews go. – *Torah.org*

## The great negotiator

לעילוי נשמת סבי נפתלי שמחה בן אברהם  
During Moshe's burning bush encounter, Hashem declared explicit intentions to free Bnei Yisrael from slavery and bring them to the land of milk and honey. Yet Moshe received instructions to approach Pharaoh and ask for only a three day hiatus to worship Hashem in the desert. There seems to be a contradiction between what was promised to Bnei Yisrael and

what Moshe requested from Pharaoh.

Rav Elchanan Samet explains that historically, Eretz Canaan was under the nominal control of the Egyptian Empire. Pharaoh would have therefore been unable to sanction his request had Moshe acknowledged his nation's intentions to leave servitude and declare a national homeland in part of the Egyptian lands. Additionally, it was hardly Hashem's intention at that time to question the legality of slavery. In fact, the Torah will later describe the *halachot* of the humane treatment of a slave, thereby sanctioning the institution of slavery itself. Moshe's request for a three day religious holiday was valid in that Pharaoh could honorably fulfill such a request without intentionally sacrificing his national security or the hierarchical fabric of Egyptian society.

In *New Insights into Sefer Shemot* (73-75), Nechama Lebowitz poses this question and evaluates numerous interpretations of the planned negotiations with Pharaoh. She settles on the logic employed by the *Akedat Yitchak* (sha'ar 35) and the *Abarbanel* (ch. 3, quest. 16). Both commentators demonstrate the folly of a request for complete freedom for Bnei Yisrael. There is little doubt that Pharaoh would have

rejected such an outlandish request. Moshe therefore began with a request for a mere three day holiday in the desert under the presumption that they would return. He would subsequently continue the negotiation process, asking for longer holidays and more rights until ultimately full freedom would be achieved. Hashem forewarned Moshe that Pharaoh would exhibit an unprecedented level of stubbornness and would reject any and all of Moshe's requests. Pharaoh's rejection of the relatively minute request of a three day religious holiday only served to underscore the very absurdity of his policy towards Bnei Yisrael.

Moshe utilized this negotiating tactic following each plague, asking for additional considerations. During the course of negotiations, the Egyptians were not blind to the misguided nature of Pharaoh's internal policy. They saw their crops and possessions being destroyed and their lives being made miserable by the very presence of these Jewish slaves. After the plague of lice, Pharaoh's closest advisors and sorcerers were not able to replicate the feat and in defiance of Pharaoh readily admitted that this was an act of Hashem. When Moshe and Aharon came to warn Pharaoh of the impending plague of locusts, the Egyptian people turned against

their leader demanding that he give Bnei Yisrael what they want lest Egypt be destroyed. Moshe gradually expanded the demands to include women, children, and sheep and Pharaoh unjustifiably rejected the request at each stage until he acquiesced following the tenth plague. By this point, Pharaoh had lost the allegiance of his sorcerers and his people and was left standing alone in front of Hashem and the nation of Bnei Yisrael. Moshe demonstrated that although one must always be reminded of the final goal and destination, the best solutions are often achieved through gradual hard work rather than one giant leap. – Asher Orkaby, SCGB

## Torah Classes Schedule

### MORNING BEIT MIDRASH CLASSES FOR MEN

**Monday - Thursday 6:15 - 6:45 am**  
(followed by *Shaharit*)  
*Yesod veShoresh Haavoda*

**Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 9:00 am**  
*Ein Yaakov* — *Masechet Megilla* - Ein Yaakov is a compilation of all the Haggadic material in the Talmud. We study the text with all the commentary and insights, from Rashi all the way down to the Ben-Ish-Hai.

**Monday - Thursday 9:15 - 10:00 am**  
*Divrei Hayamim*— The Book of Chronicles appears as the last book of the *Ketuvim*. It contains a complete resume of early Jewish history, beginning with the creation of man and ending with the proclamation of Cyrus, King of Persia, permitting his Jewish subjects to rebuild the Second Temple and return to Zion. We are currently in the second book of *Divrei HaYamim*.