



Shabbat Announcements

PARSHAT SHEMOT

Friday, January 9

Candle Lighting: 5:20 pm

Mincha: 5:20 pm

Shabbat, January 10

Shacharit: 9:00 am

Mincha: 5:10 pm

Shabbat ends after 6:29 pm

KIDDUSH

Cholent Kiddush is sponsored by **Mark and Jeannie Stein** in memory of their parents

Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by **Congregation Bnai Torah**

MazalTov to Saar and Shirley Alkobi on the bar mitzvah of their son David.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

- Weekly Classes Daf Yomi: Every morning at 6:15, 7:45 on Sundays.
- Mishna Class: Every morning after Shacharit.
- Taam and Torah: Sunday morning at 9:30
- Lunch & Learn: Meets Mondays at noon. Rabbi Hasten is

SHABBAT CLASSES

- Shabbat Youth Groups: On break this week
- Parshat HaShavua: One hour before Mincha on Shabbat
- Seudah Shlishit Class: Rabbi Teitelbaum will be speaking.
- Indy Kollel Chill Zone

teaching the book of Melachim.

- Halacha Class: between Mincha & Maariv, Sunday through Thursday. Rabbi Teitelbaum is teaching the laws of Bishul Akum.
- Business Halacha: Every Tuesday after Maariv.
- Tehillim for Women: Wednesday at 7:30pm in the library.
- Men's Mishmar: Meets on Thursday nights, at 8:00 pm. Learn with a chavrusa or join a class.
- Night Seder: Sunday through Thursday after Maariv.

DONATIONS

General Donations:

- Laura and Alyss Voicu
- Mijael Ben Avraham

Yahrzeit Donations:

- Stephen Lipken
- Sandra Macdonald

Aliyah Donations:

- Jack Cotlar
 - Rabbi Tennenbaum
 - Roy Yaari
 - Rabbi Birnhack
 - Ivan Ekhaus
 - Azik Zelikovich
 - Michael Zelikovich
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The Book of Shemos takes us to the beginning of the Jewish people's descent into slavery and exile. The Egyptians viciously and sadistically enslaved, tormented, and murdered the Jewish people.

Yet the Torah highlights a specific aspect of their suffering:

"וַיִּמְרְרוּ אֶת־חַיֵּיהֶם בַּעֲבֹדָה קָשָׁה בְּחֵמָר וּבְלִבְנִים... אֲשֶׁר עָבְדוּ אוֹתָם בְּפָרָךְ" — *They embittered their lives with hard labor, with mortar and with bricks... with crushing harshness.*

What, precisely, does it mean to enslave with "*pharech*—crushing harshness"?

The word *pharech* also appears elsewhere in the Torah, where we are commanded not to work our own servants with *pharech*. Rashi explains that this refers to assigning one's servant pointless or unnecessary tasks, such as heating a glass of water when there is no need for it. The Egyptians, by contrast, wished to break the spirits of the Jewish people. They therefore subjected them to meaningless labor, such as the construction of the cities of Pithom and Raamses, which were designed to collapse—the very definition of *pharech*.

This can be likened to the well-known parable of the prisoner of war whose captors forced him to grind a wheat mill behind his prison cell wall for twenty years, only to discover upon his release that nothing had been accomplished—there was no wheat on the other side of the wall all these years. This realization shattered him more than the twenty years of labor itself, for he now understood that it had all been for naught.

In our own lives, we often encounter what feels like *pharech*. Life challenges, financial pressures, personal struggles—and we find ourselves asking: what is the point of all of this? And as a nation as well, we are all too painfully familiar with tragedy, loss, and suffering. Why must we endure so much suffering?

But we must always remember: it is never *pharech*, and it is never pointless. There is a reason Hashem places us precisely where we are, going through whatever we may be going through at the moment. Every struggle fits into His master plan, whether it is to develop us and bring out our hidden potential, or for reasons that remain beyond our understanding for now.

Indeed, the Midrash interprets Pharaoh's warning about the Jews' increasing numbers and the phrase "וַעֲלֶה מִן־הָאָרֶץ" — *they will go up **from the land*** to mean that only after Bnei Yisroel are pressed to the ground, at their lowest point, is that when they will rise.

Similarly, Rabbi Moshe Alshich, known as the Alshich Hakadosh, interprets the blessing Hashem gave to Avraham—"Your offspring shall be as the **dust of the earth, and you shall spread out powerfully westward, eastward, northward, and southward**"—to mean that only after they are humbled like the dust of the earth will they spread out with strength.

May that day come speedily in our times.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

~ Rabbi Yisroel Teitelbaum



B'nai Torah
welcomes the community for a

Friday Night Shabbos Meal

Jan. 30th-Parshas Beshalach

Shabbos Shira

Mincha 5:40

Candlelighting 5:43

Musical Kabbalas Shabbos

Meal following davening



Catering by Keisari
Reserve at bit.ly/BTshabbos
by Thursday Jan. 22nd

\$30/Adult

\$18/Child ages 3-12

\$120 Family Cap

Sponsorship opportunities available





CONGREGATION
B'NAI TORAH



Taam & Torah

Start Off Your Week Right

Join us every Sunday morning for a **B'nai Torah and Indy Kollel partnership learning program** designed for the entire community.

Each week, **Rabbi Teitelbaum** and **Rabbi Perlow** will rotate giving a lively, relevant class on timely Torah topics—practical, meaningful, and energizing for the week ahead.

 **B'nai Torah Library**

 **Every Sunday**

 **9:20 AM**



- Coffee available in the Kollel Coffee Room
- Light refreshments
- Warm, welcoming atmosphere
- Thought-provoking Torah that sets the tone for your week



HEBREW PRONUNCIATION AND CANTILLATIONS MASTERCLASS

BY RABBI HASTEN

EVERY THURSDAY | SEUDAT
8:00 PM | SHLISHI
ROOM

IndyKollel.org



INSPIRING MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

WITH RABBI DOV KEILSON

2.0



1.18.2026 | 4:00

Free admission!

Hasten Hebrew Academy
Cultural Arts Center Auditorium



enter through Apogee entrance

RSVP requested at bit.ly/keilson2026

Children are welcome, provided they can sit through the performance

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Calendar Download

Congregation B'nai Torah
6510 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260
Office: (317) 253-5253

To make a payment or donate:

Zelle: office@btorah.org

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