

# Shabbat Announcements

## **PARSHAT KI TISA - PARAH**

### **Friday, March 6**

Candle Lighting: 6:25 pm

Mincha: 6:20 pm

### **Shabbat, March 7**

Shacharit: 9:00 am

Mincha: 6:15 pm

Shabbat ends after 7:23 pm

## **KIDDUSH**

Cholent Kiddush is sponsored by **Stan Gurvitz and family, Sherry Ganz Schwartz and family, Marcua Dadon and family, Seth Gurvitz, Joshua Gurvitz (Rena and family)** in memory of their parents Ronald and Vera of blessed memory

Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by **Gad and Fran Flaumenhaft** in memory of Fran's father Yoel ben Yankel of blessed memory

### **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 teaching the book of Shmuel.

### **SHABBAT CLASSES**

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

- Halacha Class: between Mincha & Maariv, Sunday through Thursday. Rabbi Teitelbaum is teaching the laws of Tvilat Keilim
- 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:

- Mark and Jeannie Stein
- Nethanael Thompson

### Aliyah Donations:

- Bob Stoner
- Noam Vanderhoek
- Rick Bentley
- Rabbi Posner
- Rabbi Schusterman
- Bob Miller
- Jeremy Hull
- Jack Cotlar
- Michael Zelikovich
- Matt Vanderhoek

Thank you to the following, who helped out with the Bnai Torah Sisterhood mishloach manot: The Hulls, Rick Bentley and Caryn Vogel, Marcy Ekhaus, Fran Flaumenhaft, the Rosenfelds, Shulamit Hasten, Kathy and Paul Pollack, Naavah and May Deutsch, the Finemans, the Friedmans, Shosh Kay and Emmet Hanick, Josh Brown, the Yaaris, the Teitelbaums, Tzirel Rutstein and Shayna Goodman

## PARSHAS KI SISA

This week's Parshah begins with the mitzvah of the *machatzis ha'shekel*, the half coin that everyone was obligated to donate to the Beis Hamikdash. What is the reason for this unusual amount of half a shekel?

The Talmud Yerushalmi (*Shekalim* 1:3) comments on the verse, "כל הפקודים על העבר" — *Everyone who passes through the census*," that only those who **passed through** the Yam Suf were obligated to give the *machatzis ha'shekel*. What is the connection between these seemingly unrelated ideas? Why were only they obligated?

Rav Moshe Shternbuch offers a beautiful explanation based on an earlier *Meshech Chochmah* in Parshas Beshalach. Chazal tell us that when Bnei Yisroel arrived at the sea, the Satan complained to Hashem and said, "Both of them — Bnei Yisroel and the Egyptians — are idol worshippers. Why is it fair that the Egyptians drown while Bnei Yisroel are miraculously saved?"

This begs an obvious question. Bnei Yisroel had just experienced some of the greatest miracles of the entire process of Yetzias Mitzrayim, with the Ten Makkos affecting only the Egyptians while they themselves were spared — particularly *Makkas Bechoros*, where they were saved from death. Where was the Satan then? Why did he not protest: "This isn't fair!"?

The *Meshech Chochmah* answers with a fundamental distinction between how an individual is judged versus how the community is judged. An individual is punished only for specific sins that carry defined punishments. There is no death penalty for sins that stem from flawed character traits, such as *lashon hara*. With regard to the public, however, the opposite is true. The Talmud Yerushalmi (*Pe'ah* 1:1) teaches that although the generation of Dovid HaMelech was righteous, they nevertheless fell in battle because they spoke *lashon hara* about one another. In contrast, the generation of Achav — despite being wicked — was victorious in war because they did not speak *lashon hara* about each other.

We see from here that the public is judged more harshly for sins that undermine basic character traits and interpersonal harmony than for other sins. The reason for this, explains the *Meshech Chochmah*, is based on the concept of *zechus ha'rabim* — the merit of the public. Although any one individual may not possess sufficient merit to stand independently, when he is part of a greater whole, he is judged according to the collective merit of the public. However, when there is a breakdown in *middos* and harmony between people, they are no longer one unified entity but merely separate individuals — and thus they lose the protection of *zechus ha'rabim*.

This explains why the Satan did not protest during the *makkos*. At that time, Bnei Yisroel remained in a state of unity. As our Sages (*Mechilta, Beshalach* §5) teach, they did not speak *lashon hara* about one another. Despite their idolatry, they were still a *tzibbur*, and thus the Satan had no claim against them.

At the sea, however, Chazal (*Mechilta, Beshalach* 14:13) tell us that they fractured into four groups: one group wanted to jump into the sea, one to return to Egypt, one to fight, and one to cry out in protest. That internal division signaled a breakdown of *achdus*. At that point, the Satan could argue: "They are no longer a unified *tzibbur* — why should they be saved more than the Egyptians?"

With this, we can understand the Yerushalmi that says the *machatzis ha'shekel* was commanded specifically to those who passed through the Yam Suf. Since Bnei Yisroel demonstrated a lapse in *achdus* at the sea — thereby weakening their status as a *tzibbur* — they required something to restore it.

The *machatzis ha'shekel* was the perfect corrective. The half-shekel symbolized that no individual is complete on his own. Each person is only a "half," requiring another to complete him. By giving a half rather than a whole, Bnei Yisroel reinforced the message that they form a unified *tzibbur* only when joined together.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

~ Rabbi Yisroel Teitelbaum



# STOP THE BLEED CLASS

One hour class led by a  
Trauma Educator  
from Eskenazi Health

**Monday, March 9, 2026**

**5:45 PM**  
in the Bnai Torah  
Seudah Shlishit Room

Ages 16+  
Free Admission  
Complimentary Babysitting Available

Limited class space  
Reservations required



<https://bit.ly/BTstopthebleed>

Questions- [bnaitorahprograms@gmail.com](mailto:bnaitorahprograms@gmail.com)

This event is generously sponsored by an Anonymous Donor.



**Stop the Bleed**  
American College of Surgeons 



## MEMBERSHIP CATALOGUE

To become a member, go to <https://www.btorahindy.org/membership/> to fill out the membership application, or reach out to the office (317-253-5253) for an application, and email it to [membership@btorahindy.org](mailto:membership@btorahindy.org) with the subject line: New Member Application - Last Name. All dues are expected to be paid by the first Monday of each month.

Please note: All memberships are calculated for couples and families. Individual memberships are available at half the price of a family membership.

### MISHPACHA (FAMILY) MEMBER

#### Standard Member

**Yearly: \$864 | Monthly: \$72**

#### First Year Member

**Yearly: \$432 | Monthly: \$36**

Includes:

- 15% discount at all B'nai Torah community events.

### CHAVER (FRIEND) MEMBER

**Yearly: \$1,800 | Monthly: \$150**

Includes:

- Everything in the Mishpacha Membership.
- Two seats for the High Holidays services.
- One complimentary Basic Kiddush sponsorship.

### KEHILA (COMMUNITY) MEMBER

**Yearly: \$5,000+ | Monthly: \$420+**

Includes:

- Everything in Chaver Membership.
- One complimentary Cholent Kiddush sponsorship.
- One complimentary rental of the Social Hall and Kitchen (e.g., community/shul events such as a bris, sheva brachot).

### OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERSHIP

**Yearly: \$360 | Monthly: \$30**

Includes:

- 15% discount at all B'nai Torah community events.

Please call the office (317-253-5253) with any questions pertaining to membership dues.

## Member Questionnaire

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Hebrew Name, if known \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Hebrew Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Hebrew Name \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Kohen \_\_\_\_ Levi \_\_\_\_ Yisroel  
\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_ Widower \_\_\_\_ Widow  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Religious Background \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Hebrew Name, if known \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Father's Hebrew Name, if known  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Mother's Hebrew Name, if known  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Religious Background \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Membership Application

Membership Type:  Family  Individual

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6510 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260-4606  
Phone: 317-253-5253 | Fax: 317-253-5459  
[www.btorahindy.org](http://www.btorahindy.org) | [office@btorah.org](mailto:office@btorah.org)

## CHILDREN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

Name	Date of Birth	Hebrew Name, if known

Do you have a Cemetery Lot? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If Yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

## YARTZEITS

English Name	Hebrew Name, if known	English Date of Passing	Hebrew Date of Passing	Relationship

6510 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260-4606

Phone: 317-253-5253 | Fax: 317-253-5459

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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](mailto:office@btorah.org)

Paypal: <https://www.paypal.com/donate?>

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