

Mr. Ghassan N. Cohen
Hon. President
079 8938 7881
Ghassancohen@gmail.com

ק"ק אהל דוד

OHEL DAVID EASTERN SYNAGOGUE

Established 1959

4-14 Broad Walk Lane, London NW11 8HD

Rabbi Asher Sebbag – 07732 731786

Hazan: Jacob Oved - 07971 119865

Telephone: 020 8455 3491

Web site: www.oheldavid.org Email: info@oheldavid.org

Mr. David Gigi
Treasurer
Mr. Adil Darwish
Hon. Gubbay



Shabbat P. Shoftim,

שבת פ' שופטים

Sun 25 - 26 Aug. 2017 - 4th of Elul, 5777 -

ד אלול תשע"ז

Issue Number 808

Baal Koreh	Mr Netanel Abras	(Page-1024).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr Michael Joshua	(Page -1199).

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit. 18:30

Shabbat Candles. 19:46

Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 8:56). 08:30

Mincha Shabbat Followed by Seuda Shlishit. (Sunset - 20:00). 19:15

Arbit Motzei Shabbat followed by Havdalah. 20:54

Selichot & Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday & Bank Holliday - 06:30). 05:45

Mincha & Arbit 18:45

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit. 18:30

Shabbat Candles. **P. Ki Teizei.** 19:31

Shoftim (Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9)

Shoftim 5777

GOOD MORNING! Hardly a day goes by without an expression of hatred or a terrorist attack. Every sane person is asking, "Why can't we all just get along?" However, that doesn't seem to be happening. The situation worsens, the world becomes a crazier, more dangerous place. We figuratively throw up our arms in frustration and think, "I wish I could do something to bring some sanity to the world."

In truth, we can make this world a better, more loving, more caring place. It starts with each of us and how we treat each other.

The Torah tells us that we are created *b'tzelem Elokim* (Gen. 1:27) -

- in the image of God. Since God has no corporeal form, it means that we are created with a soul and have intrinsic worth. The Zohar tells us that when the Almighty created Adam, He created him from dirt from all over the earth so that no one people could say that they are better other people based on their geographical location. All people have value. All people need to be treated with respect.

The Torah states, 'Love your fellow man as yourself.' (Leviticus 19:18) Rambam adds, "Therefore, we must praise others, and we must care about their money just as we care about our own money and our own dignity. Whoever derives honor

from humiliating someone else, loses his share in the World to Come."

The Baal Shem Tov used to say: " 'Love your fellow man as yourself.' You know that you have many faults, nevertheless, you still love yourself. That is how you should feel toward your friend. Despite his faults, love him."

To some this may sound like a simple thing to do. However, if we could all judge others just a little bit better, the world would be a far better place!

The Mishna in Pirke Avos 1:12 from the great sage, Hillel: "Be amongst the disciples of Aharon -- love peace, pursue peace; love people and bring them closer to Torah."

The commandment of loving your fellow human being can be fulfilled at all times, every single second of the day. Any favor or kindness that you do for someone is a fulfillment of this commandment. The general rule: anything you would want others to do for you, you should do for them; anything you would not want others to do to you, you should not do to them. It can also be fulfilled through thought -- to be happy at someone's good fortune, to feel sad because of his suffering.

How can we make the world a better, kinder place?

The Ktav V'hakabala gives a list of behaviors to guide us in treating others as we wish to be treated:

10 GUIDELINES TO BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

1. Do not hurt people physically, financially, emotionally, or with words.
2. Care for others' needs and feelings.
3. Be genuine in caring for others because the feeling is part of the care -- we are commanded to be Godly.
4. Treat people with dignity and respect.
5. Seek to honor others.
6. Greet people with gladness and seek their welfare.
7. Commiserate with others and help them in their time of sorrow or need.
8. Judge people favorably.
9. Do not be arrogant towards others.
10. Rejoice in their happiness.

Don't throw up your hands and say all is hopeless. If we start small and treat each individual better, then eventually we build a society and a world of love and peace.



**TORAH PORTION
OF THE WEEK**

Shoftim, Deuteronomy 16:18 -- 21:9

Topics in this week's portion include: Judges and Justice, "Forbidden Trees and Pillars" worshiped as idols, Blemished Sacrifice, Penalties for Idolatry, The Supreme Court, The King, Levitical Priests, Priestly Portions, Special Service, Divination and Prophecy, Cities of Refuge, Murder, Preserving Boundaries, Conspiring Witnesses, Preparing for War, Taking Captives, Conducting a Siege and the Case of the Unsolved Murder.

This week we have the famous admonition: "Righteousness, Righteousness shall you pursue, so that you will live and possess the Land that the Almighty your God, gives you" (Deut. 16:20).

* * *

Dvar Torah
based on Growth Through Torah by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah states:

"Judges and police you shall place for yourself" (Deut. 16:18).

What homiletic lesson can we learn from this verse to improve our own character?

Rabbi Simcha Bunim of Parshicho commented: Make for yourself judges and police, that is, before you go and make judgments about other people, judge yourself first. As the Sages said, "First correct

yourself and only then correct others" (Bava Basra 60b).

It is very easy to find fault with others. However, this can easily lead to becoming arrogant and retaining all of your faults. While we have an obligation to help others grow, keep reviewing your own behavior to see what you can improve. The purpose of police is to make certain that the laws are enforced. Similarly, when you find a fault in yourself, take action to fix it!

* * *

Dvar Torah
based on Growth Through Torah by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah refers to the ultimate in spirituality:

"to love the Lord, your God, and to walk in His ways all the days..." (Deut. 19:9).

What does it mean to "walk in His ways"? Why does the Torah stress "all the days"?

The Sages explain that walking in God's ways means that we must emulate Him by bestowing kindness and being compassionate. Some people mistakenly think that if they do someone a favor, especially a major one, that they have fulfilled their obligation to do *chesed* (kindness) for the next few weeks. Therefore, says Rabbi Yisroel Meir Kagan, the Torah stresses that the obligation of *chesed* is all the

days. Every single day of our lives we must go out of our way to do someone a favor. This is how we can be like the Almighty!

It is a matter of focus and thinking ahead. Make it your policy to hold the door for someone. If a car wants to enter from a side street, allow it to enter in front of you.

Before you leave your home in the morning, put a coin for *tzedakah* in a *pushka* (a charity box). It is so easy, if you plan in advance.



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Selichot: strated on Thu. 24 Aug. 2017, 2 Elul 5777.

Times: Sun. 06:30, Mon. - Fri. 05:45.

Stone Setting: for **Salha** bat Ragina ה"ע, (auntie of Elis Twena) will be this Sunday at Hoop Lane at 11:30 please can members help to get a minyan there.

Kolel: the Halacha shiurim at Ohel David under the responsibility of Rabbi Mordehai Cohen. This shiur dedicated to people with a background in Limud Torah. Our objective is to provide students of all ages a strong and structured methodology to understand the way the Halacha is defined. How the Guemara, the rishonim, Maran Yossef Karo, the Aharonim and our contemporary Rabanim understood and built the rules that define the halacha. The course will take place every Sunday between (09:30 to 12:30) at Ohel David Synagogue hall ground floor, For more detail and registration, please contact Rabbi Mordehai Cohen, (07713 695864).

Sefer Torah: We will be presented with a new sefer torah and Haftorah sefer at the end of November (Heshvan).

Security Alert: Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagouge. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

04 Elul Mr	Sidney Nathan	15 Elul Mr	Maurice Arwas
04 Elul Mr	Alfred Nathan	17 Elul Mrs	Evelyn Basrawy
06 Elul Mrs	Helen Meyer	24 Elul Mr	David Gigi
14 Elul Dr	Maurice Gubbay	28 Elul Mr	Ezekiel Ezekiel

Quote of the Week

**Don't expect more from someone else
than you expect from yourself**