1st Seder Weekly Divrei Torah

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

FIRST SEDER BAIS MEDRASH established in 2012 by Rabbi Uri Greenspan, provides a unique learning program for men with diverse schedules, ages, and backgrounds. Since its inception, the daily learning programs of Gemara, Mishnayos, Tanach, Halacha, and Jewish ethics, have provided hundreds of First Seder participants with a rich, challenging, and authentic Bais Medrash experience. The wide range of subjects and the varying levels of difficulty allow for the participants to choose which learning track best fits their individual needs, enabling them to truly take their learning to the next level.

DAILY SCHEDULE:
9-11:30am: Gemara in-depth and B'Chavrusa
9:10am-1pm: Classroom Learning

Monday 9-9:45pm: Dirshu Mishna Berura Shiur
Tuesday *8:45-9:45pm:* Daf HaShovua Gemara Shiur

TO JOIN: Contact Rabbi Uri Greenspan at 732.407.3178
Office@FirstSeder.org, Lower Merion Synagogue

PARSHAS VAYEITZEI – YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

Hashem appeared to Yaakov in a dream at the future site of the Bais Hamikdash and assured him that He would protect him and return him to Eretz Canaan. In response, Yaakov made a vow in which he requested that Hashem "will give me bread to eat and clothes to wear…"(Bereishis 28:21). Rabbeinu Bachya notes that it is the way of tzaddikim not to ask Hashem for luxuries, merely the basic necessities. Luxuries often bring many difficulties along with them.

Perhaps, the greatest problem of pursuing luxuries is that they often lead to a vicious never-ending cycle. Rabbi Yaakov Galinsky relates that the members of a certain community approached their Rabbi and explained that they had arranged with the local hat store for the Rabbi to pick any hat that he wished. They would pay for it as a token of their gratitude. The Rabbi thanked them profusely but, despite the fact that his hat was in very poor condition, he could not accept their offer. How could he wear a brand-new hat with his worn-out coat? True, he could afford to buy a coat. But what about the worn-out shoes? Granted, he can afford shoes too. But then his wife's wardrobe will have to at least match his. And what about the furniture, which was falling apart, that would not be appropriate with their new lifestyle…(You can imagine where this is going.) Finally, he concluded, "I just can't afford it. So please let me keep my old hat." Indeed, their Rabbi had a very valid point.

Naturally none of us can live by this Rabbi's standards. Nevertheless, we can appreciate how one new thing leads to another. Before we know it, we have moved much further into the lap of luxury than we ever anticipated.

However, this is not merely a matter that affects us as individuals. It affects entire communities. As people buy new cars, new houses, new furniture, etc. a ripple effect takes place throughout the community. Then come glamorous clothing, alluring sheitels, luxurious tiles, expensive chandeliers. But it doesn't stop with clothing and furnishings. There are gourmet food stores, lavish restaurants and hotels. And if we continue, and we have, there are the luxury vacations and private jets. Where **does** it stop?

We do have the right to ask Hashem for our basic necessities and to be reasonably comfortable. However, we must be clear as to what we need and set our limits – not merely financially – but spiritually in particular. Chazal state, "When a person leaves this world, he is not accompanied by gold, silver or precious gems – only by Torah and righteous deeds" (Avos 6:8). Indeed, we must be sure that our investments in this world do not detract from our eternal investments.

You can bring a zechus refua shelaima for Sandy Bruck - Shalom ben Tila Leah – and for all who need a refua sheleima by signing up for a weekly erev Shabbos contribution at https://pay.banquest.com/lightuptheworld and by joining the 2-3 minute daily shiur on the writings of the Chofetz Chaim.

THE EMBOSSING JOB

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

This week's Parsha talks about Yaakov's wedding with Leah and Rachel. This leads us to the following true story.

Shneur was engaged to be married, and the wedding was planned for two months ahead. Shneur's kallah's (fiance) name was Henny. In preparation for the wedding, Shneur bought 300 beautifully designed benchers to be given out at the wedding. They weren't typical benchers; they were designed beautifully, and really stood out. Shneur and his kallah were looking forward to giving them out.

Shneur brought the 300 benchers to a professional who could emboss the chassan and kallah's names into the benchers, he wasn't simply going to use gold foil for the names, it was going to be embossed and pressed into the cover of the benchers and it would look beautiful. Shneur gave the embosser, named Ariel, the words to emboss on the covers and Ariel told Shneur that they would be ready in a week.

A week later, Shneur came to pick up the benchers. The embossed design looked really stunning. But then Shneur noticed a glaring error that made his stomach drop. Instead of his Kallah's name written as הניה, Henya (the full version of the shortened Henny), it was written as סניה, Sonya. Shneur understood that his kallah would not accept the bencher being given out at the wedding that way.

Shneur pointed out the error to Ariel. "Look, I think you accidentally wrote Sonya instead of Henya." Arial looked closely and then blanched. "I'm so sorry for the error. I am happy to redo the embossing for free," Ariel said apologetically.

But Shneur wasn't satisfied with that. He said: "My friend, these benchers were expensive, not only are they ruined and I can't give them out at the wedding and I can't return them, but these 300 benchers cost me close to $1000. I think you should pay me $1000 dollars to pay for the damage caused by your error, and after you buy new benchers I'd like you to emboss them again. "

Ariel felt bad about what happened but he didn't want to spend so much money on damages. Just then he noticed the writing on the inside cover of the bencher. Ariel turned to Shneur. "Tell me, what nusach (version of the siddur text) do you and your kallah daven? Shneur seemed annoyed by the apparent non-sequitur. "I daven nusach Ashkenaz, but what relevance does that have to this discussion?", Shneur said.

Ariel replied, "It's very relevant. You see on the inside of these benchers it says נוסח עדות המזרח. This is the nusach for Sephardic Jews. This is a Sephardic bencher and you would not have given it out anyway, and you would not have been able to return it even if I did the embossing just perfectly. Even if I didn't make a mistake, you would not have been able to use these benchers., Therefore I don't think I need to pay you for the damage.

Shneur realized that Ariel had a point but he said, "but still, you damaged the benchers by adding the wrong words, until you added the wrong words, I would have been able to return them. Ariel replied, "I don't agree. Even if I would have listened to you exactly and written the words correctly you would have ruined benchers. I therefore caused no damage."

They agreed to bring this question to a Rav. What do you think? Did Ariel the embosser have to pay Shneur for embossing the wrong words? Or does he not have to pay, because even if the words were correct, Shneur would not have been able to use them or give them out at the wedding? What do you think? See Upiryo Matok, Bereishis Page 471

Regarding last week's question about the giant who rescued the man from the oncoming train, Rav Zilberstein said that we are required to have hakaras hatov to one who saves us, even if they had no intention of saving us. Therefore the man should give him an amount of money that in that particular place is considered to be a reasonable gift for saving one's life, even though the hero did not intend to help the person he rescued.

G-D HAS MUCH MORE RESPECT FOR YOU THAN THAT

Rav Manis Mandel, the principal of Yeshiva of Brooklyn, was a master mechanech inside the classroom as well as outside.

A girl with a disability was transported to school each day via a wheelchair-equipped mini-bus. Each day when she arrived at school, someone from the school had to sign the driver's paper.

One day the non-Jewish driver, Anthony, asked Rabbi Mandel to sign. When Rabbi Mandel looked around for something to rest the paper on when he signed, he could not find a solid surface.

Anthony then offered Rabbi Mandel his back to use as a surface to sign. Rabbi Mandel refused. He explained, "Anthony, G-d created you in His image. It would not be honorable to use your back as a support. G-d has much more respect for you than that.

There were times when Rabbi Mandel had to summon a student to the office to discuss her misconduct. He did not want to send a note to the classroom, calling the girl out because this would cause the girl embarrassment. Instead, he would come to the girl's class, teach an important Chazal or another lesson for a minute or two, and when he left the room, he would conveniently "forget" a folder that he had
brought with him. Then the teacher, upon "discovering" the forgotten folder, would choose this girl to bring it to Rabbi Mandel. This would allow the girl to leave in a dignified way.

(From Rabbi Manis Mandel, A Legendary Mechanech and Tzadik. By Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, Published By Artscroll Mesorah. Preprinted With Permission From Table Talk.)

1st Seder
A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

Maharal – Tiferes Yisroel
Shiur given by Rabbi Greenspan
Motzei Shabbos
8:45 PM
113 Grasmere Rd
Bala Cynwyd

***Daf HaShavua* is learning Kesubos Daf י"ב**

First Seder Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning Track 1: Shiurim					
9:20 AM – 9:55 AM	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Parsha HaShevua *(R' Yehoshua Levy)*
10:00 AM – 10:40 AM	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*
10:45 AM – 11:25 AM	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*
11:30 AM – 12:10 PM	Practical Timely Halacha *(R' Mordechai Shain)*	The Life and Torah of our Leaders *(R' Dovid Gross)*	Biur Tefilla *(R' Yoel Zeffren)*	Sefer Tehillim *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	

To sponsor the 1st Seder Weekly, please contact office@firstseder.org.

For more information or to register for First Seder, contact RabbiGreenspan@FirstSeder.org or 732-407-3178.

Gut Shabbos!