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 VA'EIRA – THE WHOLE WORLD IS AN INCREDIBLE MASHAL

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

"Hashem spoke to Moshe and Aharon and commanded them regarding Bnai Yisrael and regarding Paroh, the King of Mitzrayim" (Shemos 6:13). Rashi explains the commands referred to in this pasuk. Hashem commanded them regarding Bnai Yisrael to deal pleasantly and patiently with them, and He commanded them regarding Paroh to treat him with respect.

The Maharsha in Zevachim (102a) explains why Hashem demands that we show respect even to evil kings like Paroh. Chazal state (Berachos 58a) that Kingship on Earth resembles the Kingship of Heaven. Hashem created the phenomenon of Kingship in this world to allow us to understand, to a degree, His Kingship. The kingship of old not only displayed great pomp and majesty, but commanded intense respect and reverence.

Rav Yaakov Galinsky notes that since Hashem is totally incorporeal and truly incomprehensible, He provided us with physical things to understand how to relate to Him and to spirituality in general. The Alter of Kelm (Rav Simcha Zissel Ziv) cites the Gemara in Maseches Shabbos (119a). Rav Nachman bar Yitzchok would bring fine bedding and furniture into his house in preparation for Shabbos. He said, "If Rebbi Ami and Rebbi Assi would visit me, wouldn't I do the same for them?" In order for Rav Nachman to truly appreciate the honor due Shabbos, which is abstract, he imagined the type of respect that he would show to his great teachers to whom he could relate.

The Chofetz Chaim asserted that the technological advances of the past few hundred years afford us a greater ability to relate to Hashem. "Know what is above you, an Eye that sees, an Ear that hears; and all your deeds are recorded in a Book" (Avos 2:1).

- The telescope, which allows one to see vast distances, strengthens our conviction that although Hashem appears very distant from us, His "Eye" can see everything that we do.
- The telephone, which enables us to hear voices many miles away, helps us fathom how Hashem's "Ear" hears everything we say.
- The photograph is a permanent picture of a person who might not even be aware that he has been photographed. This reinforces our awareness that there is a "Book" that contains all the pictures of our life.
- The phonograph enables us to hear voices which were recorded on vinyl records which preserve them to be replayed over and over again. Thus, we can comprehend how all our words will be replayed for us when leave this world. (If you don't know what a phonograph is, ask your grandparents.)

The Chofetz Chaim wrote this in his sefer Shem Olam published in 1893. Today the thousands of technological advances provide us with a much more palpable perception of what Hashem's infinite Powers enable Him to perceive. I remember the first time I noticed the cameras all over the walls of a bank. I became quite self-conscious. Was my hat straight? Is it okay to scratch my nose? Did I appear impatient waiting in a long line? Then it hit me – Hashem has cameras everywhere!

The power of a *mashal* is to use physical phenomena as a way for us to imagine and conceive of a spiritual reality. The Dubna Maggid and the Chofetz Chaim saw everything in our world as a *mashal.* We can too!

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.

GIVING A HEADS UP

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

In this week's Parsha, the Torah says (Shemos 6,23) that Aharon married Elisheva, the daughter of Aminadav, the brother of Nachshon. Why does it mention that she was the brother of Nachshon? Our Sages explain that this teaches us that when one wants to marry a woman, he should check and inquire about her brother. This leads us to the following true story.

Yehuda was riding on a bus in Eretz Yisrael. In front of him was a middle-aged man talking on the phone. The man was talking out loud; "Chani, as you know, there was a shidduch redt for our daughter to a boy named Yisrael Berman. Before they go out, I will go to his yeshiva, Yeshivas Ohr Eliyahu, to observe him and see how he acts among his friends, how he learns, and how he davens. I will be home later tonight." Yehuda, who was sitting behind the man, knew Chaim Berman from Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu. He often sat next to him in the dining room.

Yehuda had a plan. He was going to get off the bus right away and run ahead of the man. Then he would tell Chaim about the fact that the man was planning to watch him the whole day.

Yehuda found Chaim and said, "Your possible future father-in-law will be coming to the yeshiva to watch how you act, how you daven and how you learn. You better be on your best behavior." Chaim greatly appreciated the heads up and told Yehuda that he intended to act his best.

But later, Yehuda felt conflicted about his choice. The man on the bus wanted to see how Chaim Berman acted when no one was watching. He didn't want to watch a "show." Perhaps it was wrong to tell Chaim about the fact that he was going to be observed. Perhaps he was contributing to misleading the man and the girl. Yehuda sent this question to Rav Zilberstein. Was it wrong of him to give Chaim the heads-up that the man was planning to watch him? What do you think?

See Upiryo Matok Shemos 126

Regarding the question of whether a person who would not step on a picture of a Jordanian king can step on a page of Gemara to save it, Rav Zilberstein answered as follows. The halacha is that saving the Gemara page from potentially being lost is the way to show respect to Hashem. Therefore, if necessary, one is allowed to step on it to save it.

YEHUDAH MEANS TO EXPRESS THANKS

As told by Rabbi Paysach Diskind

Rabbi Yaakov Bender, the Rosh Yeshiva of Darchei Torah of Far Rockaway called Zev Cohen, who runs a home security company. He asked Reb Zev to please install a camera at the entrance of his father-in-law's apartment. Rabbi Bender's father-in-law, Rabbi Yehudah Elchonon Diskind, who taught fourth grade in the Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway for many decades, lived in a Flatbush apartment on the second floor and was unable to walk down the steep flight of steps to allow guests in. Zev installed a wired system by which Rabbi Diskind could see who was at the door and, with the press of a button, could allow them to enter.

Just a few days ago I met Zev for the first time and told him my name. When he heard my name was Diskind, he asked me if Rabbi Yehudah Elchonon was my uncle. He proceeded to share with me a special hanhaga that my uncle had. For many years, several times a year, usually on erev Yom Tov, Rabbi Diskind would call his house. Most of the time Reb Zev's wife answered the phone. My uncle would tell Mrs. Cohen, "Please tell your husband how grateful I am to him for putting that camera by my door. Nowadays it is seldom that I go out. I rarely see people other than my family. By using that camera I am able to see out onto the street and feel somewhat part of society."

He always expressed his appreciation for the gifts he had been granted, no matter how many times.

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1st Seder

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

Maharal Tiferes Yisroel **Perek 3**
Motzei Shabbos
8:45 PM
At the Fox Residence
329 Linden Lane
Shiur given by
R' Uri Greenspan

Daf HaShavua **Chabura is learning Kesubos Daf 19**

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)*	

Sifrai Chofetz Chaim

Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim - Have you joined the daily shiur? You can listen via WhatsApp, podcast or online!
You can listen to archived shiurim from the Sefarim of the Chofetz Chaim of Ahavas Yisroel, Kavod Shamayim, Sfas Tamim, Zechor L'Miriam.

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.

13 Thousand Hits in 13 Countries!!

This past week we reached 13 thousand hits on our podcast, spanning 13 difFerent countries around the world! We would like to thank all of our donors who make this possible. Scarcha harbai me'od; your reward is very great!

Gut Shabbos!