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 PINCHAS – IT'S NOT ABOUT US

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

After Hashem informed Moshe that he would not be allowed to bring Bnai Yisrael into Eretz Yisrael, Moshe requested that Hashem appoint someone to take his place. The Medrash asserts that Moshe had hoped that one of his own sons would be selected for this positon. The Medrash goes on to state: HKBH said to him, "Your sons sat around and did not engage in Torah. Yehoshua served you a lot and showed you respect; and he came early and stayed late in your study hall; he arranged the benches and spread out the mats. Since he served you with all his might, he is worthy to serve as the leader of Yisrael." The Medrash says that Yehoshua merited his position because he served Moshe by showing him respect for and attending to the physical needs of the *bais medrash.* There is no mention at all of his level of Torah scholarship or even of his toil in Torah.

The Gemara (Berachos 7b) states, "Greater is serving a Talmid Chacham than learning from him as it says, 'Elisha the son of Shefat, who poured water on the hands of Eliyahu, is here.' It does not say who learned [from Eliyahu] rather "who poured water." This teaches us that greater is the service than learning. The Maharsha explains that very often Torah study discusses halachos that are not relevant to daily life. However, by serving a Talmid Chacham and being constantly in his presence one can not only learn practical halachos, one can see very clearly how they are performed. Also, one can perceive the great degree of discretion exercised by Talmidei Chachamim in making critical decisions.

Our Medrash demonstrates another dimension and advantage of serving a Talmid Chacham. It is the facilitating of the scholar's Torah knowledge to be taught and disseminated. Yehoshua understood that greatness in Torah goes way beyond studying its teachings. There is a broader picture which involves every single facet – big and small – that contributes to there being more Torah in a shul, a *bais medrash,* a city, a country or the entire world. It may involve raising funds, building structures, providing tables, setting up benches, buying food or toilet paper. There are literally hundreds of other considerations. A Torah leader is one who is prepared to do whatever it takes.

Rav Yosef Kahaneman, the Ponovezher Rav, was a classic example of this principle. In Europe he had demonstrated exceptional brilliance and great prowess in learning, and his peers expected that he would become one of the next Gedolei Hador. However, when he arrived in Eretz Yisrael, he decided to reestablish the Ponovezh Yeshiva in Bnei Brak. Raising huge sums of money, acquiring sufficient land for his yeshiva, building a community around the yeshiva and a myriad of other responsibilities left him little time to devote to his Torah studies. He traveled the world seeking the necessary funds to maintain the yeshiva, often meeting with failure and suffering great *bizyonos.* In his older years he would continue to go abroad to raise money despite the toll it took on his poor health. This was because it wasn't about what was best for him, it was about what was best for Torah.

And don't forget the basics. Whether it is "arranging the benches" or putting away the *sefarim* in their proper places, they contribute significantly to the learning of Torah. The tremendous importance of putting back *sefarim* has been stressed by such prominent Gedolim as Rav Aharon Kotler, Rav Yaakov Yitzchok Ruderman and the Steipler Gaon. Rav Yitzchok Zilberstein observes many people who study Torah very diligently, yet neglect to put back all the *sefarim* that they use during their many hours of learning. They may ultimately have to answer for all the hours wasted by others looking for those *sefarim.* For these people it may well be that it's not about what is best for Torah, it's all about their Torah.

So, when you leave a shul or a *bais medrash,* why not take just your own sefarim; grab a whole bunch of siddurim, chumashim or anything else lying around and put them back in their place. After all, it's not about us; it's about Klal Yisrael and the Torah.

You can bring a zechus refua shelaima for Sandy Bruck - Shalom ben Tila Leah – and for all who need a refuah 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.

SHMASHED!

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

In this week's Parsha, Pinchas, the Torah states that Pinchas was blessed with the "covenant of peace". You might wonder how that is a blessing. Our Sages teach that it was actually the most significant blessing because having shalom, or peace, is the vessel that leads to all other blessings. The importance of peace brings us to the following true story.

There was once a woman named Rachel who lived in Israel. She worked at a school during the academic year and, due to her employment, was permitted to borrow a very expensive camera that belonged to her school for the summer.

One day, during the summer, Rachel took the camera to the zoo with her friends, hoping to capture some memorable moments. During a particularly photogenic moment, she handed the camera over to one of her friends to take a group picture. However, just as the friend was about to take the shot, she decided that she also wanted to be in the picture. So, this friend passed the camera to a random stranger to take the shot.

The stranger was willing and took several photos, much to the delight of everyone. However, disaster struck when the stranger accidentally dropped the camera, and it hit the floor hard.

This accident led to a complicated question: who should bear the cost of the damaged camera? Was it the stranger who physically dropped it? Or was it the friend who initially had the camera and then handed it over to the stranger? Perhaps the responsibility fell on Rachel, as she was the one who borrowed the camera in the first place. However, some might argue that she was protected under a special exemption called "baalav imo" due to her status as a school employee. Who do you think is responsible for paying for the camera? Rachel, Rachel's friend, or the stranger who dropped it?

Regarding the competing snack machines; If there is enough business for two stores one may open a competitive store alongside an existing store. However it is minhag chasidus not to do so. The Pischei Choshen (CM 89:1) argues that in a large market it is absolutely acceptable to do so, not even minhag chasidus. Therefore, Reuven acted inappropriately but cannot be required to pay since it was only grama. In dinei Shamayim he will be held responsible to pay.

HAVE YOU EVER PULLED ME OVER TO COMPLIMENT MY DRIVING?

A police officer once stopped Rav Shlomo Rothenberg, the Rosh Yeshiva of the Mountaindale Yeshiva, on Mountaindale's Woodridge Road. "Officer," Rav Shlomo began, "I've driven down this road thousands of times. Have you ever pulled me over to compliment my driving instead of giving me a ticket? You see, I'm a teacher, and I know that I can't merely rebuke my students. I must also encourage and compliment them!" Rav Shlomo's sincere words made an impression, and the officer waived the ticket, allowing Rav Shlomo to continue on his way.

A student recalled, "Rav Shlomo taught me something remarkable: 'Do you know the difference between a college professor and a rebbi? One difference is that a professor won't teach his students everything he knows, because he feels a need to be above them. A rebbi, on the other hand, will teach everything he knows to his students, because his greatest desire is for them to one day surpass him!' Another difference is that a professor's job is to impart knowledge to his students. But the role of a rebbi is to forge a deep and lasting connection with them."

"And what's the difference between the college student and the yeshivah student?' Rav Shlomo continued. 'Have you ever met a college graduate reviewing the material he learned in college, just for the sake of knowledge itself? Never! He will only review the material he needs for his career. The yeshivah student, on the other hand, will review what he learned in yeshivah over and over again for the rest of his life. Because he is in love with the Torah!"

From You Made My Life! By Rabbi Nachman Rothenberg. Published By Israel Bookshop and reprinted with permission from Table Talk.

מזל טוב !

Mazel Tov to Reb Daniel Baltuch and the participants of his Gemara shiur on being mesayaim Meseches Gittin last week. Now as always is a great time to join for Bava Basra. The shiur meets M-F 10:00-10:40 AM.

Please contact Rabbi Greenspan with any questions.

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1st Seder

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

First Seder Weekly Schedule

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

Good Shabbos!

Daf HaShavua

Chabura is learning Kesubos Daf מ"ד

Have you joined the Mishnathon???

You can join the Mishnathon and enable the 1st Seder Bais Medrash to continue spreading Torah throughout the world!

To join please visit firstseder.org or contact Rabbi Greenspan or Zac Miller.

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