



CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM
June 2020 Newsletter
9 Sivan – 8 Tamuz 5780



	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27
Torah Reading	Naso	Behaalotecha	Shelach Lecha	Korach
	Numbers 4:21-7:89	Numbers 8:1-12:16	Numbers 13:1-15:41	Numbers 16:1-18:32
Pages	586-601	605-619	623-634	639-648
Haftorah	Judges 13:2-25	Zechariah 2:14-4:7	Joshua 2:1-24	I Samuel 11:14-12:22
Pages	602-604	620-622	635-637	649-651

Minyan Times are in the monthly calendar and on the Ahavath Achim web site, www.ahavathachim.org

Rabbi Peretz Robinson's Torah Message

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well and in good health.

On the Shabbat of Saturday, June 27th, we will be reading Parashat Korach. It very much remains a possibility that our weekly Shabbat minyan might not have reconvened by that time due to continued health concerns. Nevertheless, I would continue to encourage everyone to keep abreast of the annual Torah reading cycle by studying the parasha in your homes throughout the week, and particularly on Shabbat.

Parashat Korach revolves around the rebellion initiated and fomented by Korach against the leadership of Moshe Rabbeinu, Aharon Hakohen, and their immediate family. While a superficial reading of this incident might lend the impression that Korach's cause was just and that his intentions were pure, it is when we turn to the Rabbinic exegesis in the Midrash and other sources that Korach's true colors are duly exposed. Indeed, the Mishna in Pirkei Avot (chapter five) points to Korach's rebellion as the quintessential "machloket sh'einah l'shem Shamayim: "Any dispute that is for the sake of Heaven will have a constructive outcome; but one that is not for the sake of Heaven will not have a constructive outcome. What sort of dispute was for the sake of Heaven? The dispute between Hillel and Shammai. And which was not for the sake of Heaven? The dispute of Korach and his entire company." Although Hillel and Shammai had disputes regarding Halacha, they were concerned not with triumph, but with a sincere search for the truth in the exposition of Torah. Whereas Korach's dispute was merely a rebellion against authority, and accordingly met a tragic end. The Halachic disputes between Hillel and Shammai, and the students of the rabbinical academies that they founded, are legion. Their debates as to the proper course of Jewish ideology and praxis run throughout the corpus of the entire Talmud. And yet, the rabbis of Pirkei Avot accept their debates as proper and just. More than that: their debates are even referred to as "for the sake of Heaven"! How are we to understand this?

Pirkei Avot is teaching us an important lesson. When engaging in a debate, it is not just the validity of the argument of the two sides that is important, and not even so much as the tone that the two disputants assume, as much as the INTENTION with which the respective parties enter the fray. Hillel and Shammai were not searching for their own glory and benefit in their numerous instances of machloket. Rather, they were endeavoring to arrive at the proper will of the Torah in each and every situation. As such, their debates have stood the test of time as prime examples of two camps striving together to arrive at the Divine truth. Korach's rebellion was the exact opposite. Korach's true intent was to elevate himself and those around him, and to promote their own selfish political interests. If the means to do so were to initiate a coup against Moshe Rabbeinu's authority- then so be it. This is the very definition of "machloket sh'einah l'shem Shamayim." He and his co-conspirators were accordingly punished, and their machloket proved not to endure. Life is full of conflict and strife. As much as we would like to avoid it, it is simply a fact of life. It is not necessarily inherently wrong to engage in a dispute or a debate with a fellow. Some of the greatest strides that a person takes in life often stem from the constructive criticism of an acquaintance. Being in the environment of friends, coworkers, relatives and spouses can serve to challenge us in a positive way, as their constructive criticisms cause us to examine and reexamine the propriety of our attitudes, actions and thoughts. It is entirely possible that some of these conflicts may be classified as a "machloket l'shem Shamayim". The all- important question is: what is my INTENTION in entering into a debate? Are my intentions pure and holy, like those of Hillel and Shammai? Or the opposite, like those of Korach and his assembly?

May the Almighty enlighten our eyes so that we may discern the true motivation and intention in all of our actions.

All the Best,

Rabbi Peretz Robinson

Mailing Address	92 Montauk St Fairfield, CT 06825
Phone	203-372-6529
Office:	office@ahavathachim.org
Website	www.ahavathachim.org
Personal Contact Info	
Rabbi Peretz Robinson	203-583-9142 peretzrobinson@gmail.com
Presidium	
Sara Klein 203-374-9365	Sakl31@aol.com
T. Augenbraun 917-847-1700	taugenbraun@gmail.com

Refuah Shelemah to Andrew Deutsch, David Gordon, Arlene Moidel, and Diane Sheinbaum. May G-d grant each a speedy and complete recovery.

Golden Book- If you would like to send a card to the family or friend. for a happy time or a sad time. Please contact Sara Klein at 203-374-9365 or you can e-mail Sara at sakl31@aol.com.

Yahrzeits for June 2020

<p>Wednesday, June 3- Eugene Moskowitz (Uncle to Rose Moidel) Thursday, June 4- Belle Cohen (Mother to Arnold Cohen) Thursday, June 4- Marvin Dentz (Husband to Arlene Dentz) Saturday, June 6- David Kovensky (Father to Leah Guttman) Saturday, June 6- Cecile Levine (Mother to Lynn Eliovson) Sunday, June 6- Gittel Macy (Mother to Joe Macy h'a, Grandmother to Barbara Friedman and Toby Schaffer) Wednesday, June 10- Rabbi Moshe Shoshan (Father to Sammy Shoshan) Friday, June 12- Bernard Berg (Father to Ellen Tobias & Devorah Hager) Monday, June 15- Michael Levine (Friend to Terry Augenbraun)</p>	<p>Friday, June 19- Harold Zimmer (Uncle to Pamela Zimmer) Saturday, June 20- Rose Jutkowitz (Mother to Dr. David Jutkowitz) Sunday, June 21- Elaine Feit (Sister to Linda Eliovson) Wednesday, June 24- Max Goldman (Grandfather to Billy Wolper) Thursday, June 25- Sol Rothman (Relative to Shelia Rothman) Friday, June 26- Jacob Zimmer (Uncle to Pamela Zimmer) Sunday, June 28- Paula Appelbaum (Mother to Goldie Librach) Sunday, June 28- Alex Thau (Father to Peter Thau) Monday, June 29- Karen Dimand (Wife to Jay Dimand and Father to Bernard Dickens)</p>
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