

WEEK OF  
October 1, 2017  
11 Tishrei, 5778

WEEKLY PARSHA NEWSLETTER  
SPECIAL SUKKOT EDITION



**Sukkot  
Simchat Torah  
Hoshanah Rabah**

*By: Rabanit  
K. Sarah Cohen*

**ONE MOMENT LEFT**  
**Hoshanah Rabah**

We are now entering the days of Sukkot and with it, entering the confines of Hashem's Shechinah Kedoshah. Sukkot is the holiday of joy and celebration. It is also the time to do teshuvah from love.

Imagine a child who does not show respect to his parents. Regardless of his behavior, the child still expects his parents to provide for him, care for him and protect him - even though he is disrespectful towards them. Can we imagine the pain a father experiences as the child keeps asking for more and more?

And yet, the father knows how much he loves his child and he gives him an opportunity to say "I'm sorry." As long as the child is willing to apologize, the father is not only willing to forgive him, but he also wishes to provide him everything that he asks for. He tells his child, "I'm giving you until the count of ten to say that you are sorry."

The father begins to count, "One... two... three..." As the seconds tick by, the child shows no sign of regret. He is unwilling to bend or to surrender. "Five... six... seven..."

The father continues to count, hoping the child will soon apologize. By the time he reaches number eight, he realizes that the child is not going to

regret his behavior or say "I'm sorry."

What will he do now?

He has compassion for his child and repeats the number 8 over and over again, hoping that maybe, just maybe, those few prolonged seconds will enable his child to come to his senses and apologize to his father for his misbehavior.

The father does not wish to punish his child. He would rather provide him with all the wonderful things the child could want. The problem is, that his child will not budge! Left with no choice, he moves on to the next number and continues to count, "Nine..."

Again, he repeats this number over and over, hoping that the son will finally break and say "I'm sorry."

What is the nimshal of this poignant parable?

Hashem is the Father who demonstrates an enormous amount of patience for the misbehaving child - Bnei Yisrael. He began counting at the beginning of Elul and hoped we would apologize for our actions. But all we did was ask for more. We expected more from our Father. Yet some of us refused to admit or acknowledge that we have mistreated him and disrespected Him.

Hashem continued to count through the Yamim Ha'noraim. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kipur have passed and still, there is nothing.

REFUAH SHLEIMAH  
&  
HATZLACHAH

Yonah bat Henya  
 Michael ben Yonah  
 Ro'ee ben Rachel  
 May bat Ilana  
 Ben Tzvi ben Ilana  
 Gidon ben Esther  
 Esther bat Mazal  
 Yosef ben Devorah  
 Yaffa bat Rivka  
 Baruch Chai ben Zoya  
 Rivkah bat Malkah  
 Nissan ben Liza  
 Gavriel ben Toviyo  
 David ben Liza  
 Baila Chava  
 bat  
 Sorka  
 Freida Leah  
 bat  
 Pesha Rachel  
 Yehoshuah Mordechai  
 ben  
 Leah Gita  
 Chaim Yehudah  
 ben  
 Aidel  
 Efrat  
 bat  
 Shifra Tanya  
 Irin  
 bat  
 Sonya



Finally, Hoshanah Rabah approaches, the final day we can receive forgiveness. Hashem is now ready to count to ten. He waited and waited. After stalling time and time again, we are now at the end of the line. This is Hoshanah Rabah - our last opportunity.

But Hoshanah Rabah is also the chance for a great salvation. There are so many who have made the most of those last moments. *"Yesh koneh olamo be'sha'ah achat"* - there are those who acquire their portion in the World to Come in one moment" (Gemara of Avodah Zara 10b).

*Sha'ah* means a moment; but it also has the same root as the word, *"sha'ah"* which means "wanted." *"Ve'el Kayin ve'el minchato lo sha'ah"* - But to Kayin and to his offering He did not turn" (Breishit 4:5).

According to the Targum Yonatan (a"h), this means that Hashem did not **want** Kayin's korban.

The Sefat Emet (a"h) notes that this is the secret of Hoshanah Rabah. At the root of the words *"Hoshah na"* - is *"sha'ah."* If we really want to change, then even at this final moment we can do so. Through that change, we can acquire a share in the World to Come.

We will cry out *"Hoshah na"* - 44 times throughout the tefilah of Hoshanot on Hoshanah Rabah. We hope that these 44 cries will enable us to achieve the verdict of LIFE!

Rav Tzvi Mayer Silverberg finds an allusion to this in the words *"Be'damayich chayi"* - In your blood, live!" (Yechezkel 16:6).

The word "dam - דם" (blood), has the numerical value of 44. The 44 cries of Hoshanah Rabah will assist us to merit life. With each cry, we search deeper and deeper into our souls; and we have the ability to find the "sha'ah," the will and the precise moment where change will occur, where we will ask Hashem to forgive us.

We should not worry and instead should feel happy and confident.

There is yet another name for Hoshanah Rabah - Yom Ha'aravah. It is the day when we take the aravah, the willow branch that has neither taste or smell - alluding to our lack of mitzvot and Torah learning - and we hold it in our hands and walk around the bimah. We march proudly because it is all that we have.

The Magid of Chernobyl (a"h) once commented that there is a minhag on Hoshanah Rabah to remove the rings from the Lulav and walk around the bimah. The Jewish nation can be compared to a young maiden, with no ring yet. And it is a sad state that the young maiden has nothing; no dress for the wedding, no money for a dowry, no food or caterer. She is poor and desperate.

The young maiden turns to Hashem and says, "Ribono Shel Olam, how can You possibly say 'no' to someone as desperate as I am?"

This is what Am Yisrael who are compared to the young maiden must ask Hashem. "Hashem, how can you say 'no' to Your children, when we are so desperate?"

The shape of the aravah reminds us of lips. Rav Shimshon Pincus (a"h) states that the aravah symbolizes the kiss we receive from Hashem. Although we are not tzadikim but merely baalei teshuvah with minimal mitzvot and maasim tovim - but we also know that *"Be'makom she'baalei teshuvah omdim, tzadikim gemurim einam omdim"* - in the place where baalei teshuvah stand, complete tzadikim do not stand" (Gemara of Berachot 34b).

We ask Hashem for a kiss in our tefilah, "U'tenashkeinu mi'neshikot Picha - kiss us with the kisses of Your mouth."

Although it is difficult to fully understand what his "kiss" really means - one thing is quite clear - Bore Olam loves us. Let me tell you a story that explains this idea.

During World War II, the Nazis (yimach shemam), marched through Poland and murdered three million Jews. An elderly Jew stood with his Talit and Tefilin davening. He could not help but hear the loud screams of the Nazi soldiers ordering helpless Jews to evacuate the Warsaw Ghetto.

Suddenly, the door to his apartment burst open and the Nazi guards grabbed this frail old man. They ripped off his Talit and beat him with his Tefilin. Then they grabbed him by the head and ripped out his beard.

This holy Jew lay there in a pool of blood as they kicked him with their

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## HOSHANAH RABAH

Continued

metal-tipped boots and trampled upon his broken body. Then they laughed, leaving him there for dead.

Somehow, he managed to scrape together some of the hairs that were scattered all over the floor. He held them in his hand and lifted them up. And in one of the most touching tefilot ever recited he began to cry, *"Hoshah na, merutat lechi, hoshah na* - Please save, plucked of cheek, please save!"

We are battered, beaten and weak; and we are running out of time. But Bore Olam, we are Yours and we love You. We want to come home.

As the moments tick away and the door is closing, we ask You to please take us back... please!"

May this Chag Ha'Sukkot awaken in you the neshamah that longs to connect to ה'. May you be zocheh to new and positive beginnings that will lead to simchah, ahavah and dveykut la'Bore. May the walls of your Sukah keep you protected and elevate you so that you can reach a level of teshuvah me'ahavah. And with that proceed into the coming year with a clean slate, with optimism and an encouraging attitude.

I want to wish you all a chag sameach, a pitka tovah and a year of simchah, ahavah and the final geulah amen ken yehi ratzon.



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## WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN LIFE

**An Interesting Message From The Founder Of Apple - Steve Jobs**

Apple Founder Steve Jobs left behind a deathbed essay about how the "non-stop pursuit of wealth will only turn a person into a twisted being, just like me."

In November 2015, a rumor began circulating on social media that when Apple co-founder Steve Jobs passed at away at age 56 in 2011, he left behind a deathbed essay about the meaning of life.

"I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In others' eyes, my life is an epitome of success. However, aside from work, I have little joy. In the end, wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to. At this moment, lying on my sick bed and recalling my whole life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in, have paled and become meaningless in the face of impending death.

"In the darkness, I look at the green lights from the life supporting machines and hear the humming mechanical sounds, I can feel the breath of G-d drawing closer. Now I know, when we have accumulated sufficient wealth to last our lifetime, we should pursue other matters that are unrelated to wealth...should be something that is more important:

Perhaps relationships, perhaps art, perhaps a dream from younger days. Non-stop pursuing of wealth will only turn a person into a twisted being, just like me. G-d gave us the senses to let us feel love in everyone's heart; not the illusions brought about by wealth. The wealth I have won in my life I cannot

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## THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

What is a Sukah? I think some could offer a technical definition or an instruction manual for constructing it, but what is a Sukah? In order to understand a thing well, we are advised to visit the first time it is mentioned in the Torah. Where is the idea of a "Sukah" first mentioned in the Torah Ha'kedoshah?

After surviving a threatening confrontation with his arch enemy Esav, the Torah states the following: *"And on that day Esav returned on his way to Seir and Yaakov traveled to **Sukot** and built for himself a house and for his cattle he made **Sukot** therefore the name of the place is called **Sukot**"* (Breishit 33:16-17).

The pasuk is a bit strange. Yaakov Avinu (a"h) built himself a house but because he made Sukot for his cattle, the place he traveled to become known as, "Sukot"? Is this reason enough to name a place?

The Or Ha'Chaim Ha'kadosh (a"h) answers: "Perhaps because he did something new by showing his compassion for the cattle...that he did something that no one had done previously, that he prepared a Sukah - a shelter for animals. It was that novelty that caused that the place should be called so."

This may help us gain an insight into the essence of our Sukot, the ones we dwell in for seven days.

After a near head on collision between two super-powers, the Torah depicts Esav going back home to his old predictable ways. Yaakov Avinu, however, did something beyond the norm, outside his home. He did not walk away from his brush with death the same as he entered. Nor did he become bitter from the experience.

Instead, we see that he became better. The symbol that improvement was his innovation in creating an expanded arena for compassion in the universe - is the Sukah!

After the life and death surgery of the "Yamim Ha'noraim," a Sukah, like a clean parchment or canvas, becomes a place where, everyone can express some renewed sense of gratitude or idealism in an individual way. The inner world of each Sukah, like each person, is decorated differently.

Some hang natural fruits and vegetables and some display the seven fruits that Eretz Yisrael is praised with. There are Sukot that are covered with pictures of Talmidei Chachamim and there are those that are busy with the art projects of our children.

Many Sukot have some reminder of Yerushalayim while some have dangling mitzvah artifacts such as Shofarot, Menorahs and Kidush Cups etc. Some Sukot have uplifting pesukim from Tanach - while the Ushpizin are the invited guests that we bestow the most honorable of mention in this real Hall of Fame. Some Sukot are simply decorated with the faces of happy children and parents eating and singing together with guests and friends.

A Sukah is not only a place for artistic expression but rather a space that holds a newly harvested produce of inspiration and idealism that we will be nourished from for a whole year. A Sukah is a serious and holy domain with limitless possibilities and so are we when we exit the ordinary and begin thinking **inside the box**.

Hashem sees to it that we begin the year with mitzvot, with the project of the Sukah, with guests in our Sukah, with tefilot in the Sukah. And if we take advantage of the Holiness of the Sukah and use it as a means of attaining spiritual elevation and closeness to Hashem, then the holy light that shines forth from the Sukah and into our neshamot, will continue to shine down upon us throughout the rest of the year.



**ATTENTION LADIES**

Call us to host a learning group in your community.

**(347) 430-5700**

Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen will be speaking on the following dates:

**Date:** Oct 01, 2017

**Time:** 7:14pm

**Place:** 510 Cumberland Street  
Englewood, NJ 07631

**Special Sukot Shiur**

**Date:** Oct 18, 2017

**Time:** 8:15pm

**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**Date:** Oct 31, 2017

**Time:** 7:45pm

**Place:** To Be Announced

**SPECIAL GATHERING IN HONOR OF  
RACHEL IMEINU'S YAHRTZEIT**

**Date:** Nov 15, 2017

**Time:** 8:15pm

**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**Date:** Motzei Shabat, Nov. 18, 2017

**Time:** 8:00pm

**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY  
**Special Melaveh Malkah In Honor Of  
Rosh Chodesh Kislev**

**Date:** Nov 29, 2017

**Time:** 8:15pm

**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**Date:** Dec 6, 2017

**Time:** 9:15pm

**Place:** On The Radio - Instructions to Follow  
**SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE SHIUR**

**Date:** Dec 18, 2017

**Time:** 7:45pm

**Place:** To Be Announced

**CHANUKAH PARTY IN HONOR OF  
ROSH CHODESH KISLEV**

**Date:** Dec 27, 2017

**Time:** 8:15pm

**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Audio-visual shiurim of

**Rabanit**

*Kineret Sarah Cohen*

Are Now Available For Viewing At

**[www.torahanytime.com](http://www.torahanytime.com)**

**Instructions:** Register for free and click on the "Ladies" tab at the top of the Home Page. Scroll down and look for Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen. Underneath the image for the Rabanit, click on the "**follow**" tab if you want to be notified via email or text about a shiur that has become available for viewing.

Shiur To Post Mon. Oct. 2, 2017

**Sukkot**

All Beginnings Are Difficult

Log on and enjoy the live lectures and be inspired.



## WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN LIFE

Continued

bring with me. What I can bring is only the memories precipitated by love. That's the true riches which will follow you, accompany you, giving you strength to go on.

Love can travel a thousand miles. Life has no limit. Go where you want to go. Reach the height you want to reach. It is all in your heart and in your hands.

What is the most expensive bed in the world?

[A] Sick bed...

You can employ someone to drive the car for you, make money for you but you cannot have someone to bear the sickness for you.

Material things lost can be found. But there is one thing that can never be found when it is lost - LIFE.

When a person goes into the operating room, he will realize that there is one book that he has yet to finish reading - [the] Book of [a] Healthy Life. Whichever stage in life we are at right now, with time, we will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your children, love for your friends. Treat yourself well [and] cherish others.

I would like to wish you all a Ptikah Tovah and a year filled with berachot and yeshuot. May we merit to experience Hashem's kindness and compassion. May we merit to be filled with His light so that our road towards Torah and mitzvot is clear.

May we enjoy a year of joy as we usher in a new era of redemption and witness the coming of Mashiach this year B'ezrat Hashem.

With All My Love,  
*K. Sarah Cohen*



## SPECIAL DEDICATION

This week's newsletter is dedicated in memory of my dear and holy Rabbi who was plucked away from us 15 years ago, on the first day of Simchat Bet Ha'sho'evah, in the holy Sukah amid the dancing. This left the kehilah shocked and without leadership.

Baruch Hashem that today, his son, Aharon leads the congregation - but we can never forget the teachings, the righteousness and love the Rav had for his talmidim and talmidot.

*Ha'Rav Moshe Chai  
ben  
Aharon & Shulamit Siman Tov (a"h)*

18 Tishrei

May all his teachings that we apply in our life bring him nachat in shamayim. And may his righteousness and love for every Jew continue to be the engine which moves our organization.

May he be a melitz yosher to all Am Yisrael.

## SUKOT PACKAGES



Ohel Sara would like to deliver a Sukkot Package to boost the spirits of so many women who are unfortunately entering the chag feeling dejected and alone.

**Help us to bring simchah to these women while simultaneously donating to our worthy organization.**

The Sukot Packages consist of a bottle of wine, a bottle of honey, two candles, two rolls, a Tefilat Todah, and a warm and encouraging letter from me.

Each package is **\$36 (twice chai)** and will be delivered throughout Aseret Yemei Teshvah and after Yom Kipur.

Help us bring a smile to another Bat Melech

To Donate A Package Follow The Instructions Below:

1. Log onto **[www.ohelsara.com](http://www.ohelsara.com)** and click on the "Donate" button of your choice
2. Call our offices at **(347) 430-5700** to donate via credit card



## *Newsletter Dedication*

### **Sara Bat Mimon Ha'Kohen (A"H)**

Ohel Sara is named after this tzadikah (my grandmother). May the inspiration that women draw from this weekly newsletter benefit her neshamah in Gan Eden and may we all be redeemed as a result.



*Ohel Sara wishes all it's readers a Shabbat Shalom u'Mevorach!*

**Candlelighting Time**

**6:15PM**



**You can now make a donation  
to Ohel Sara through Paypal:**

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