

# Heights Jewish Center News

## Achdus—Unity and Friendship

### Megillas Rus - A Lesson in Kiruv

Excerpted from Rav Pam on the Festivals by Rabbi Sholom Smith

**Rema** (Orach Chaim 490:9) notes the tradition to read Megillas Rus on Shavuos. Various reasons are offered by the commentators for this. One is that Rus eventually became the great-grandmother of David HaMelech, who was born and died on Shavuos. This is why the Megillah itself concludes with the lineage of David. Another reason is that the numerical value of the name Rus is 606. Before Rus converted to Judaism, she was obligated to observe the seven mitzvos given to the descendants of Noach. When she converted, she took upon herself 606 addi-

tional mitzvos, to complete the 613 mitzvos given to the Jewish nation at Har Sinai.

Mishnah Berurah (490:17) quotes Yalkut Shimoni (596) which states that the lesson of Rus is that, in order to attach oneself to Torah

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and mitzvos, a person must be willing to forgo material pleasures and accept sacrifice and depriva-

tion. The story of Rus clearly illustrates that. The Gemara (Sanhedrin 105b) says that Rus was the granddaughter of Eglon, king of Moav, who himself was a grandson of Balak. She could have lived a luxurious, pampered life as a princess, yet she gave up everything to convert to Judaism. The Megillah depicts the poverty Rus endured upon her arrival in Bethlehem as she was forced to collect the gleanings which had been left over in the fields by the workers.

What attracted Rus to Judaism, to willingly endure the great self-sacrifice that was her lot? Why didn't she follow the lead of her sister, Orpah, who did return to her people, and to her gods (1:15)? The answer



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Traditionally, Shavuos night is a night of learning Torah. This year is no exception, Heights Jewish Center will host various learning sessions for the community. Aish HaTorah Rabbonim and Rabbi Davidovich will present shiurim all night long.

Rabbi Davidovich will address Panim Chadashos - New Facets

Shavuos is "His wedding day." The celebration of a wedding requires *panim chadashos*, a new face at every new gathering. Join us Shavuos Night at midnight as we explore different and new facets of some supposedly well-known parts of the Torah. Below is the schedule:

<b>Midnight: Krias Shema - Halachic Facets</b>	<b>3:00 am: Aseres Hadibros - Halachic Facets</b>
<b>12:45 am: Krias Shema - Political Facets</b>	<b>3:45 am: Aseres Hadibros - Historical Facets</b>
<b>1:30 am: Krias Shema - Spiritual Facets</b>	<b>4:30 am: Themes in the Aseres Hadibros</b>
<b>2:15 am: Krias Shema - The War of the Worlds: Analyzing the war between the first and second paragraphs of the Shema</b>	<b>Shacharis - 5:20 am and 9 am</b>

## Megillas Rus - A Lesson in Kiruv (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

is that Rus was greatly influenced by her mother in law, Naomi, and this motivated her to take the monumental step of converting to Judaism. Naomi had tried three times to discourage Rus from converting; the Midrash (Rus Rabbah 2:16) deduces from their conversation that one must do the same to every potential convert. If he persists in his determination to become a Jew, he is accepted. Rus was already convinced that, come what may, she wanted to cleave to Naomi and not leave her and her G-d under any circumstances.

What did she see in Naomi that impressed her so much? The Midrash (Rus Rabbah 2:5) explains: Why was she called Naomi? Because her actions were sweet and pleasant. Rus saw in Naomi what a life devoted to Torah and avodas Hashem can do for a person. She saw her sterling midos, her nobility of spirit, her warmth and caring personality.

That was what attracted Rus and motivated her to give up a life of ease and luxury and "return" to Judaism as a penniless, widowed convert, forced to live off the charity of others. In fact, Rus was so attached to Naomi that she was able to overcome the shocked reaction of the townspeople of Bethlehem when Naomi returned: Is this Naomi who used to go out in a covered carriage and now goes barefoot? Is this Naomi who in the past wore a cloak of fine wool and now is clothed in rags? Is this Naomi whose appearance was full from food and drink and now is shrunken from hunger and deprivation? (Rus Rabbah 3:6) Despite all this, Rus remained with her.

This is the enormous power a person with a pleasant, warm personality and good midos has on other people. He attracts followers like a magnet and can have great influence on their lives. This is a proven method to be mekarev (bring close) to Yiddishkeit those who are estranged from their heritage. While

philosophical discussions and proofs of the existence of a Creator are certainly tools in bringing baalei teshuvah back to their roots, a critical factor is to show how the ways of Torah are pleasant and all its pathways are peace (Mishlei 3:17). This has the drawing power to influence people to a Torah way of life.

Derech Eretz precedes Torah (Vayikrah Rabbah 9:3). This concept underlines the vital importance of Torah Jews conducting themselves with the utmost courtesy and respect in their interpersonal relationships. They must not forget that wherever they go -- whether in the business world or as neighbors or friends-- they represent Yiddishkeit. One does not have to be a rabbi or kiruv professional to influence others. Every Torah Jew presents an image to those around him which, depending on his conduct, will either bring others closer to Yiddishkeit or, G-d forbid, cause estrangement from it. This is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. The great influence one woman (Naomi) had on another (Rus) set into motion the chain of events which led to the founding of Malchus Beis David and planted the seeds of Mashiach. This is the underlying theme of Megillas Rus and should serve as a source of great inspiration for the Yom Tov of Shavuos.

### Mazal Tov

**Mazal Tov to the Beer family on the birth of a new granddaughter to their son Charlie and his wife.**

**Mazal Tov to Reuven and Leora Mandel on the birth of their daughter. Mazal tov also to grandparents Efraim and Katia Bolotin and Tova and Morris Mandel. Also to great grandparents, Joe and Sarah Greenberg.**

**May we continue to grow as a Jewish people.**



## Why dairy on Shavuot? Here is one reason.

Excerpt from the Aish HaTorah Website www.aish.com

Moses was born on the seventh day of Adar, and stayed at home for three months with his family, before being placed in the Nile River on the sixth of Sivan.

Moses was rescued by Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted Moses and took him to live in Pharaoh's palace. But right away a problem arose: what to feed the baby. In those days, there was no bottled baby formula, so when the birth mother wasn't available, the caretaker would have to hire a wet nurse. In the case of Moses, he kept refusing to nurse from Egyptian women. The Talmud explains that his mouth needed to be kept totally pure, as it would one day communicate directly with God. Finally Pharaoh's daughter found one woman who Moses agreed to nurse from - Yocheved, Moses' biological mother!

Appreciate the irony: Pharaoh's murderous decree against Jewish babies was specifically intended to prevent a new generation of Jewish leadership. So what happened instead? Moses, the upcoming great Jewish leader, was raised, educated and trained - right under Pharaoh's nose, in Pharaoh's own home, at Pharaoh's expense! And on top of it all, Moses' mother got paid a salary!

The eating of dairy foods on Shavuot commemorates this phenomenon in the early life of Moses, which occurred on the sixth of Sivan, the day on which Shavuot falls.

### Yogurt Coffee Cake

<b>Cake Mixture:</b>	2 cups flour	<b>Filling and Topping:</b>
3/4 cup sugar	1 teaspoon baking powder	1-1/4 c firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup soft margarine/butter	1 teaspoon baking soda	3 Tbsp melted margarine/butter
1 teaspoon vanilla	dash salt	1 cup chopped walnuts
3 eggs (or 3/4 cup egg substitute)	1 cup plain yogurt	2 teaspoons cinnamon

- ◆ Grease and lightly flour a 10-inch tube pan or 12-cup Bundt pan.
- ◆ Combine filling and topping ingredients and set aside.
- ◆ Combine dry ingredients for cake and set aside.
- ◆ Cream sugar and softened margarine
- ◆ Add vanilla and eggs, mix well.
- ◆ Alternately add flour mixture and yogurt to sugar/egg mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture.
- ◆ Spread half of batter in prepared pan, sprinkle with half of filling/topping mixture.
- ◆ Repeat with remaining batter and filing/topping mixture.
- ◆ Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean.
- ◆ Cool upright in pan for 15 min.; turn onto a plate, then turn over onto serving plate so that the topping side is up.



If you have a special recipe you would like to share. Send it in and we will publish it for everyone to try.

### Brachos for Shavuos

- ◆ Boruch atah Hashem Elokeynu melech ha-oloam asher Kid-deshonu b'mitzvosov V'tzivonu l'hadleek ner shel yom tov.
- ◆ Boruch atah Hashem Elokeynu melech ha-oloam sheh-heh-cheyonu vkeeymonu v'hegeeyonu lazman hazeh.

#### Welcome

Mrs. Jeanette Seltzer  
 Nachum and Yael Tesler  
 David and Devorah Goldblatt  
 Shaya and Dassi Shtern  
 Yossie and Dena Hochheiser

We are happy to have you as members. We hope that your association with Heights Jewish Center will be elevating and mutually fruitful.

Welcome!

Lag B'Omer Picnic

A good time was had by all. See for yourselves.



**Happy birthday - May your future be filled with long, healthy years to 120 and may you receive much nachas from your families.**

**June**

Esther Adler	George Cohen	Edna Edelman
Judith Gale	Sara Greenberg	Betty Hoffer
Rabbi Hofmann	Dr. Shira Katz	Melanie Muller
Alex Schnittlinger	Harry Schuster	Madeline Sudman
Randi Waxman	Sol Waxman	

**July**

Richard Schlesinger	Sharon Klein	Tamar Hartman
Dr. Bryan Michelow	Ben Nagler	Betty Schnittlinger

**August**

10.5	Faige Males	Pearle Goldman
David Goldblatt	Peter Baum	H. Lenny Beer
Frankie Geduld	Nachum Tesler	

**Happy anniversary. We wish you many more happy, healthy years together.**

**June**

Herb and Toby Geduld	David and Francine Geduld
Yossi and Channa Ireland	Meyer and Betty Hoffer
Dr. Bryan and Raizel Michelow	Jeffrey and Melanie Muller

**July**

Rabbi Justin & Sophie Hofmann	Abraham and Gerda Metz
Yisroel and Sherrie Mendenhall	Boris and Alla Mikhli

**August**

Peter and Paula Baum	David and Devorah Goldblatt
Gershon and Mary Ireland	Stewart and Jennifer Mintz
Rabbi Zev and Esther Shimansky	

**Thank you**

To the Social Committee for the great job they did on the Lag B'Omer Picnic. As you can see from the photos on page 4 (courtesy of Betty Hoffer), it was well attended and people seemed to be having a great time. Yeshar Koach Social Committee and their assistants.

Shira Katz (Chair), Marla Lipman, Madelyn and Albert Pollack, Isabel Parks, Lenny and Penny Beer, the Kohanim (Alvin and George Cohen - Chefs), Bobbie Perkel, Lorna Shulman, Toby Geduld, Sandy Zeitler, Barbara Schlesinger, Rivah Schlesinger, Zahava Seltzer and Company for keeping the kids happy, etc. If we missed anyone, we apologize. You know who you are, you did a great job, we appreciate it.

And, to top it all off, it is **free** to anyone who doves at Heights!

If you wish to use this service, just bring your children ages infants to 5 years to the lower level of the shul from 10-noon every Shabbos.

Some of the members have taken upon themselves to make donations to defray the expenses of such a wonderful program. We welcome any and all donations. See you on Shabbos.

**Shabbos Morning**

**Early Childhood Program**

You like dovening in shul, but what will you do with your small children?

That question has an easy answer if your shul is Heights Jewish Center.

This was an idea whose time had come when Andrea Rosen volunteered to work with the younger children on Shabbos morning so their parents could doven with peace of mind and would be able to concentrate. Also, so children would not run around the shul and possibly get hurt if unsupervised.

Since the program started, she and her assistant Bracha Olgin, have instituted a group dovening using illustrated children's siddurim, teaching values and midos through song and games with a Jewish theme such as Shabbos, Shabbos Kodosh in place of Duck, Duck, Goose (clever). A snack and juice are provided and the children are also treated to a story. Then, they join their parents for Kid-dush after services.

**The older kids learn with Rabbi Hirsch. Another good reason to come to Heights on Shabbos.**

## Midos - The measure of a person

Thank you to the Skokie Kollel for this article <http://www.skokiekollel.org/> - Printed last year. Worth repeating.

Pride. Arrogance. Haughtiness. These words are used to describe the midah (characteristic trait) of ga'avah. The common denominator between these concepts is man's interest in his "self", his interest in keeping his self image above the rest, of receiving what he feels due to him.

The only thing worse than being stricken with this attitude is falling into the many traps to which it leads.

Over the summer, we should start making a serious accounting. Did we hurt our fellow Jew? Did we cause pain, insult? Are there people that we need to ask forgiveness? Are there people that have wronged us whom we should forgive?

The trap which ga'avah lays for its victim is to repel such lofty thoughts. After all a person infected with ga'avah will think to himself "I was absolutely justified even if he got hurt" or "How could I forgive him? He actually had the nerve to offend ME!"

It is told about Rabbi Akiva Eiger zt'l the great gaon and posek that he once had to dismiss a student from his yeshiva for a terrible offense. While reprimanding the student he actually became angry. Afterwards Rabbi Eiger tried to locate the student to apologize. After all, he had to reprimand him but there was no need to express anger and possibly hurt the student's already tender feelings. Unfortunately he could not find the student.

Many years later when Rabbi Eiger had moved to a different community he heard that this same former student lived nearby. He sent him a letter saying that for all these years he had felt terrible regret for his burst of anger and pleaded with his former student to forgive him for any hurt feelings.

One burst of anger many years before still nagged incessantly at the humble heart of this great sage.

When we ask the Almighty to forgive us for our many wrongs we may be asked in turn "Did you forgive wholeheartedly those that hurt you? Did you ask forgiveness to those that you have wronged?" Will we be able to answer that our ga'avah did not strangle our true good nature embedded in our hearts?

### Condolences

Mr. Aaron Ritzenberg on the passing of his beloved sister Bessie Falk.

Mr. Marc Shack on the passing of his beloved father.

May you and the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Yirushalayim.

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#### WE ARE ON THE WEB

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