

**Congregation Sons of Israel**

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**Upcoming Events**

Join the community for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Jewish Heritage Night at the IronPigs** on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:05 p.m. Cost: \$20, which includes an IronPigs Golf Towel and a food voucher. **All tickets must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.** We will not be purchasing extra tickets, and this package will not be sold individually by the IronPigs, so please order your tickets immediately after Pesach.

This year's **Yom Hashoah Commemoration** will be held on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the JCC, beginning with the reading of names at 6:00 p.m.

Come celebrate **Yom Ha'atzmaut**, Israel's 69<sup>th</sup> birthday festival, on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 4-6 p.m. at the JCC. This program is free and open to the community. Please RSVP to the JCC welcome desk.

We are delighted to invite you to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to S.Y. Agnon with our **Scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Jeffrey Saks, on May 5 & 6.** Join us for a Shabbat dinner Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. (Mincha at 6:15 p.m.) Rabbi Saks will speak on **"Agnon and the Miracle of Faith—Belief and Literature between the Old and Modern Worlds"**. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children under 12, with a \$75 family max. Reservations must be pre-paid prior to Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Babysitting will be provided.

**Shavuot Count-Down 5777:** Sign up to learn a section of the 19 Books of Neviim (Prophets) and K'tuvim (Writings) in preparation for a siyum kiddush on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Shavuot, Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Regular Classes**

**Daily:** Daf Yomi, Sunday—Friday 7:30 AM

**Tuesdays:**  
"How to Use the Parsha to Communicate with Your Child"  
w/R'Wilensky at the JDS 8:10 AM

"A Psychoanalysis of the Personalities of Moses, Aaron and Miriam"  
at the JCC with Rabbi Wilensky 10:45 AM

"Chovot Halevavot: Nurturing the Inner Feelings of a Jew"  
with R' Wilensky at the shul 8:30 PM

**Thursdays:**  
"A Psychoanalysis of the Personalities of Moses, Aaron and Miriam"  
at the JCC with Rabbi Wilensky 10:45 AM

**Shabbos**  
Shabbos Morning Gemara Shiur with Dr. Henry Grossbard 8:00 AM  
"Contemporary Halachic Issues from the Parsha", with R' Wilensky 12 noon  
Daf Yomi 1 hr. before Mincha



**קהילת בני ישראל**  
**Congregation Sons of Israel**

**Shabbos Chol HaMoed**  
**19 Nissan, 5777**  
**April 15, 2017**

**Announcements**

The **mikvah will be open for men** on Sunday from 10:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Please bring your own towels. Thank you.

Watch your mail for your invitation to this year's **annual fundraiser** at Sons of Israel:

Plan to join us on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. for an evening of

**Laughter and Celebration**

as we honor the King David Society members and remember its founder, Jay Scherline, z"l

Featuring comedian Mike Reiss of The Simpsons and a decadent dessert (dairy) reception

**Shabbos Schedule**

8:00 AM	Beginner's Gemara Class
9:00 AM	Shacharis
9:45 AM	Reading of Shir Hashirim
10:30 AM	Jr. Congregation
6:10 PM	Eat Shalosh Se'udos at home
7:10 PM	Daf Yomi
8:24 PM	Mincha, followed by a Shiur
	Maariv/Shabbat concludes

The last days of Yom Tov begin Sunday night. For a complete **schedule of services**, please refer to your Pesach edition of **Hamodi'a**.

**Minyanim April 9-15**

	<b>Sunday</b> <b>4/16</b> (Chol HaMo'ed)	<b>Monday</b> <b>4/17</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> Day Pesach)	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>4/18</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> Day Pesach)	<b>Wed</b> <b>4/19</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>4/20</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>4/21</b>	<b>Shabbos</b> <b>4/22</b>
<b>AM</b>	8:30 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	6:45 AM	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	9:00 AM
<b>PM</b>	7:20 PM	7:25 PM	7:30 PM	7:25 PM	7:25 PM	7:00 PM	7:05 PM

# Pesach —The Season of Emunah

By Rabbi Ben Zion Shafier

“When you enter the Land of Israel, you will enjoy prosperity and abundance. You will build beautiful homes. Your crops and livestock will increase. You will amass gold and silver. And all that you engage in will flourish... If you become arrogant and say, ‘My strength and the might of my hand made this wealth.’”

“*And you shall remember that HASHEM, your G-d, is the One who gives you the strength to amass this wealth.*” Devarim 8:18

Historically, one of man’s greatest shortcomings has been taking credit for HASHEM’s work. Only too often does a man find success, and in his arrogance, feels that his power and his might created his empire. The Torah warns us, “Remember:” it was HASHEM who brought all this to be.”

While this may sound like a straightforward concept, the *Targum* adds an intriguing twist. He defines the words, “HASHEM gave you the *strength*,” as “HASHEM gave you the *advice* to acquire that merchandise.”

In other words, if you take credit for prosperity, remember that HASHEM gave you the counsel that led to it.

## The Role of the Targum

This *Targum* is difficult to understand. The role of *Targum* is *pshat*—straightforward meaning. The Torah said,

“Remember that HASHEM gave you the strength to make this wealth.” But it is far more than advice that HASHEM gives. HASHEM created the heavens and the earth. Hashem wrote the laws of physics, chemistry, and biology. HASHEM created and maintains all of physicality — from the constellations down to cellular functions. Why would the *Targum* so limit the explanation to this one issue of HASHEM giving *advice* to acquire merchandise?

The answer to this can be best understood with an example.

## A Farmer in the Field

Imagine a simple farmer standing in his field, ready for harvest. Looking out, he sees rows and rows of ripe corn standing tall, stretching as far as his eye can see. He feels joy in his heart as he revels in the abundance of his bumper crop. And then he looks out at his neighbor’s field. Meager. Undergrown. Spotty.

The farmer thinks to himself, “Dang fool that boy is. How many times did I tell ‘im – plant corn this year! Not wheat. The rains came late. The frost was still on the ground in April. Any man worth his salt knows wheat wouldn’t grow no good that way. Corn. Corn. Corn! I says to ‘im. If only he’d a listened to me...”

And the farmer can’t help but feel a sense of pride. After all, it was his wisdom that led him to choose corn, not like that fool of a guy next door who planted wheat.

The farmer, as naive as he is, understands that he didn’t bring the rain. It wasn’t his acumen that stopped the

pestilence. And it wasn’t he who made the sun shine bright in the sky, providing the warmth and energy the corn needed. Nevertheless, he feels smug because it was he who made the wise decision that brought him to where he is.

## The One Area Where They Could Have Taken Credit

This seems to be the answer to the *Targum*. This was the *dor deah*, the generation that knew HASHEM. They experienced the splitting of the sea. They lived in the desert surrounded by miracles. They saw HASHEM on a daily basis. And they understood that HASHEM runs the world. As such, they couldn’t possibly take credit for “growing the corn.” They knew that if their flocks increased, it was HASHEM’s blessing. If their crops flourished, it was because HASHEM willed it to be.

The one area for which they could take credit was their wisdom. “It was my decision to purchase gold and not wood. I thought about it and realized that cattle feed would do well. I came to the conclusion that water rights would be valuable.”

The *Targum* is telling us that this is the only mistake they could have made. Of course, everything is from HASHEM – that was never a question. Yet they still could become arrogant, thinking it was their wisdom that brought their success. The *posuk* says to them, “Remember: those thoughts were brought to you by HASHEM. The reason you made that choice is because HASHEM guided your thinking.” The Torah is saying: recognize that even ideas are directed by HASHEM.

## Seeing HASHEM in Our World

This concept is very relevant to us. As *maaminim* we recognize that we don’t control market conditions. One worldwide depression and we’re all out a job. So that isn’t a test for us. The challenge is the area that *seems* to be in our control. The decisions we make, the choices we opt for. Real estate or oil? Treasury bonds or mutual funds? Should I buy short? Should I invest in gold now?

The Torah is teaching us that this too is in HASHEM’s control. He guides our thinking, putting thoughts into our minds that bring us to where we are supposed to be. It is hard to know why sometimes we have a good feeling about a business opportunity, and sometimes we don’t. It is difficult to define why certain people find favor in our eyes, and some don’t. Ask a young man going out why one woman catches his fancy and another doesn’t. Granted some of it is natural attraction, but there is far more going on. Often a more attractive, more presentable girl will not sway him, yet “somehow” the other one did.

One of the ways that HASHEM runs this world is by putting opinions, ideas, and attitudes into our minds. While we are still free to listen or not, we are greatly influenced by that input. Identifying this phenomenon and seeing it in action is part of learning to see HASHEM in our world.