

Parashas Bamidbar • May 22nd • 28 Iyar • 43 Ba'Omer

 **Covid-19**

Pikuach Nefesh is paramount. With the projected reopening of society, one must be diligent and recognize that in certain cases the legally sanctioned guidelines may not sufficiently satisfy the Halachic mandate of Venishmartem.

One should always consult a Rav regarding relocating a Sefer Torah and proper storage in a private home.

Some Poskim are lenient regarding wearing masks outside an Eruv depending on the circumstances and local ordinances. One should consult a Rav.

According to many Poskim, men can fulfill Tevillas Ezra via Tishah Kavin by remaining under an uninterrupted shower flow for between 2-4 minutes.

 **Rosh Chodesh**

This week is Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Sivan; Rosh Chodesh is on Sunday, May 24th. The Molad (will have already occurred and is) on Friday morning at 11:42am and 13 chalakim. Mevorchim Hachodesh may be recited without a Minyan; the Molad need not be announced.

The Haftarah of Machar Chodesh is leined.

Av Harachamim is recited in most communities (despite Shabbos Mevorchim), due to the Sefirah mourning period. Tzidkascha is omitted at Mincha.

As Rosh Chodesh begins on Motzaei Shabbos, one who extends Seudas Shelishis after sundown is in a quandary whether to say Retzei or Ya'aleh Veyavo (or both) in bentching. Many are careful not to eat bread after tzeis (in this case 35-40 minutes after shkiya) and then only say Retzei. Speak to your Rav.

 **Reminders**

Vihi Noam is omitted at Maariv on Motzaei Shabbos.

The Shelah writes that Erev Rosh Chodesh Sivan (this Shabbos), is an auspicious time to daven for the spiritual well-being of our children; many recite the Tefillas HaShelah on this day. In addition, he writes that one should give tzedakah to a worthy person along with his tefillah. Many say this prayer even on the Shabbos.

Tachanun is not recited from Rosh Chodesh Sivan until the day after Isru Chag; or for many, until 13 Sivan.

The first opportunity for Kiddush Levana is Monday night, May 25th. The final opportunity is Thursday night, June 4th.

Sefirah: Erev Shabbos is 43 Ba'Omer.
Daf Yomi: Erev Shabbos is Shabbos 77.
Pirkei Avos: Chapter 6.

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rabbi to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to do the same!

 **Next on the Calendar**

The Sheloshes Y'mei Hagbala - during which Klal Yisrael prepared and purified themselves for Kabbolas HaTorah - begin this Tuesday, May 26th.

Shavuot is Friday and Shabbos, May 29th and 30th. An Eiruv Tavshilin should be prepared on Erev Yom Tov (Thursday).

 **Parshah in a Paragraph**

BAMIDBAR: Each tribe, excluding Levi, is counted
• The total of all the tribes (besides Shevet Levi) is

603,550 • The arrangement of the tribes around the Mishkan • Shevet Levi replaces the firstborn in performing the priestly services • The special status of the Kohanim and Levi'im • Levi'im aged 30 days and up are counted; they total 22,000 • The firstborn are counted; they total 22,273 • The 22,000 Levi'im each redeem a firstborn; the remaining 273 are redeemed with silver coins • The Kehos family is charged with carrying the sacred vessels • They are warned to not approach the Holy of Holies

613 Taryag Weekly

Parashas Bamidbar does not include any of the Taryag Mitzvos.

 **For the Shabbos Table**

"Degel Machaneh Dan Tzafona"
"The flag of Dan is north" (Bamidbar 2:25)

Ramban (2:25) explains that the word "tzafon" can also mean "concealment", and alludes to moral darkness. The refers to the two golden calves of Yeravam ben N'vat, of which the first was placed in the portion of Shevet Dan. Now, Yeravam was certainly wicked, but his sins paled in comparison to those of King Achav generations later which culminated in the nation's great spiritual deterioration. If so, why is Yeravam deemed the cause of the "darkening of Israel"?

The Chofetz Chaim explains that although Achav's deeds were certainly more destructive, nevertheless the origins of the movement were Yerevam's; Achav only furthered this downward spiral. When calculating a move, one is not only culpable for the immediate results but rather for the momentum and trajectory they generate for himself and for others.