



This week's Kiddush is sponsored by the Beth Sholom Village in honor of our parents and grandparents as a part of Project Kahbaid.



Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by the Shalosh Seudos Club

## Schedule

### Friday, February 2nd (17th Shevat)

Candle Lighting 5:14 P  
Mincha 5:15 P

### Shabbos, February 3rd (18th Shevat)

Shachris 9:00 A  
BISLI 10:00 A

*See Page 2 for additional Learning programs*

Daf Yomi 4:00 P  
Minchah 5:00 P  
Maariv/Havdala 6:13 P  
Parent/Child learning 6:45 P

### Sunday, February 4th (19th Shevat)

Daf Yomi 7:00 A  
Shachris 8:00 A  
Mincha/Maariv 5:15 P

### Monday, February 5th (20th Shevat)

Daf Yomi 6:00 A  
Shachris 6:45 A  
Mincha /Maariv 5:15 P  
Class Series on "*Esther: The Final Chapters*"  
with Rabbi Haber - "*Chapter Nine: Inventing Purim*" 7:15 P  
Late Maariv 7:50 P  
Partners in Torah (JCC) 8:00 P

### Tuesday, February 6th (21st Shevat)

Daf Yomi 6:00 A  
Shachris 7:00 A  
Tomer Devorah for women 12:00 N  
Mincha/Maariv 5:15 P  
Late Maariv 7:50 P

### Wednesday, February 7th (22nd Shevat)

Daf Yomi 6:00 A  
Shachris 7:00 A  
Mincha/Maariv 5:15 P  
Late Maariv 7:50 P

### Thursday, February 8th (23rd Shevat)

Daf Yomi 6:00 A  
Shachris 6:45 A  
Mincha/Maariv 5:15 P  
Late Maariv 7:50 P

### Friday, February 9th (24th Shevat)

Daf Yomi 6:00 A  
Shachris 7:00 A  
Candle Lighting 5:21 P  
Mincha 5:25 P

## CLASSES FOR EVERYONE

### DAF YOMI

**Morning Class:** Sundays at 7:00 AM, weekdays at 6:00 AM  
with Rabbi Loiterman

**Evening Class:** Sunday through Thursday after Late Ma'ariv

**Shabbos & Yom Tov:** both classes meet together one hour before Mincha with Rabbi Loiterman

### B N O S

*Shabbos Afternoon 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM*

For girls from Kindergarten to 6th Grade in the Fred Aron Education Wing.

*Next Bnos: This Shabbos February 3rd*

### SHABBOS LEARNING FOR BOYS

Grades 5th - 8th Gemara class with **Rabbi Bauman at his home at 3:00 PM**

Grades 1st - 4th Parsha with Rabbi Lipman at shul 30 minutes before Mincha

### PARENT-CHILD LEARNING

*Motzei Shabbos*

Join us once again for our beautiful Parent-Child learning each Motzei Shabbos. Inspiring atmosphere, beautiful learning, and exciting prizes.

### PURIM CLASSES BY RABBI SENDER HABER:

Mondays at 7:15 PM

**"Esther: The Final Chapters"**

February 5th - Chapter Nine: Inventing Purim

February 12th - No class

February 19th - Chapters Ten & Eleven: The Aftermath of Purim

February 26th - Purim Today: Meaning, Laws and Purpose

### PARTNERS IN TORAH

*Mondays from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM*

Meets at the JCC in Room 238

### KOLLEL NIGHT SEDER FOR MEN

Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays following the Late Maariv

Held in the Bnai Israel Minyan Room.

Includes: Rabbi Goder Open Beis Medrash Learning Night

### WOMEN'S TUESDAY NOON LEARNING CLASS

The sefer Tomer Devorah is being studied.

TALMUD CLASS - 75 minutes before Mincha

Tuesday evenings: With Gershon Aronoff - Avoda Zara.

## **YAK 2018 SENIORS FUNDRAISER**

Please support the Yeshiva Aish Kodesh Seniors by buying their delicious dips. Flavors available: Onion, roasted garlic, olive, jalapeno with many more to come. Each container of dip is \$4.50. All products are made in the yeshiva kitchen. All orders should be placed before 8:00 AM on Thursdays by emailing: [yakseniors2018@gmail.com](mailto:yakseniors2018@gmail.com)

## **SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND**

The Sisterhood provides fresh flowers for the Bimah for every Yom Tov. Contributions to the Bnai Israel Sisterhood "flower fund" can be mailed to Irene Mazel or Frances Berger.

## **PROJECT KAHBAID - BETH SHOLOM VILLAGE**

*This Shabbos, February 3rd*

In partnership with Beth Sholom Village, our region's only Jewish senior housing community, we are once again participating in Honor or Kahbaid Weekend. On February 2 - 4, synagogues around the world will be reading Parshas Yisro, which includes the Ten Commandments, including the 5th to Honor our Fathers and Mothers.

Here at Bnai Israel, we will be having a Kiddush, sponsored by the Beth Sholom Village, in honor of this wonderful event.

To learn about the ongoing Honor Campaign to renovate the Berger-Goldrich Skilled Care Facility, call David Abraham at (757) 420-2512 or visit [www.bethsholomvillage.com](http://www.bethsholomvillage.com).

## **TRUE COLORS PAINT NIGHT AT BINA**

*This Motzei Shabbos, February 3rd at 7:45 PM in the Fred Aron Education Wing*

Women - it's time to let your inner artistic self out. Join the girls of BINA at a night of artistic fun. The cost is \$25.00 per adult and \$15.00 per student.

Please RSVP to BINA at 757-627-2462 or [info@binshighschool.com](mailto:info@binshighschool.com)

## **MEN: BAKE YOUR OWN MATZOS - WITH THE NORFOLK KOLLEL**

*This Sunday, February 4th*

Join the Norfolk Kollel for an eye-opening and inspirational experience. Daven Shachris in the famed Bais Medrash Govoha, enjoy a VIP tour of the largest Yeshiva in America, meet with one of the Gedolim of our generation, learn about the intricacies of baking and then practice what you've learned, enjoy lunch as a group, and do some Pesach shopping ...all in one day. Cost is \$40 per man, \$30 per Middle School boys. (Scheduled departure from Norfolk is at 12:30 AM). Please contact any member of the Kollel about this wonderful experience.

## **JEWISH YOUTH SUNDAY FUNDAY!**

*Every Sunday from February 4th to March 18th from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM*

Starting this coming Sunday, there will be a new youth group (in English & Hebrew) held at Heichal Shlomo where the youth will be exposed to Jewish values and lots of fun. If you know of a child who can benefit from this program, please contact Chaim Baron at [chaimbaron2@gmail.com](mailto:chaimbaron2@gmail.com).

## ISRAEL TODAY - AARON DAVID MILLER

*Monday, February 12 at 7:30pm at the Simon Family JCC.*

The Vice President for New Initiatives at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Global Affairs Analyst for CNN offers patterns of the past as the basis for comparison to a wandering and clueless modern-day Gulliver tied up by tiny tribes as a means for recognizing that not all foreign policy problems can be solved: not abandoning hope, but perhaps abandoning illusions.

Prior to serving at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Mr. Miller served in the Department of State as an analyst, negotiator and adviser on Middle Eastern issues to Republican and Democratic Secretaries of State. In addition to his role on CNN, Miller is a frequent commentator on Fox News, MSNBC, and NPR. **The event is free and open to the community but RSVP required for security purposes.**

## SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE: RABBI YISSACHAR FRAND

*Friday, February 16th & Shabbos, February 17th*

Rabbi Yissachar Frand, a renowned speaker, author and teacher will be visiting the Norfolk Community as the Norfolk Kollel Scholar in Residence. Rabbi Frand will be delivering the Dvar Torah during the Friday night davening, will be also be delivering the Drasha Shabbos morning. In the afternoon, he will be conducting a shiur in halacha. All of Rabbi Frand's talks are open to both men & women.

## CHAI KIDDUSH

*Shabbos, February 17th*

In conjunction with the Kollel's Scholar in Residence, we will be having a Chai Kiddush on Parshas Teruma (February 17th). Be sure to get your dedications into the shul office by **Thursday, February 15th.**

## KOLLEL YARCHEI KALLAH

*Sunday, February 18th - Monday, February 19th*

Join the Norfolk Kollel and Yeshivas Aish Kodesh for an exciting 2 day learning program. Dedicate your holiday weekend for 2 mornings of yeshiva-style learning. A gourmet breakfast and lunch will be served in Yeshiva.

We will be studying the topic of the mitzvah of Mishloach Manos in depth. Shiurim will be given by the talented Rabbeim of the Yeshiva.

## VAAD HAKASHRUS SHALACH MANOS

Trying to figure what to put in your Shalach Manos? Why do the Work? Let the Vaad will do it for you. They have two options for you.

Option #1: The Vaad HaKashrus of Tidewater will make beautiful Shalach Manos baskets and deliver them to all members of B'nai Israel who live in Ghent, for a flat fee of \$136.00. Our Shalach Manos will contain a deluxe assortment of wonderful treats, Hamentashen and wine.

Option #2: If you would like to send only a few Shalach Manos baskets to people on the B'nai Israel list who live in Ghent, please send a list of names - at the price of \$10 per name. For more information, please contact Rabbi Sholom Mostofsky at (757) 572-6344. All checks are to be made out to the Vaad HaKashrus of Tidewater - **BEFORE PURIM.**

## PASSOVER CANDY SALE

### BENEFITTING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING & BABYSITTING

We are looking for a few super salespeople! Barton's Pesach candy is back at Bnai! Through these candy sales, we're hoping to be able to increase our children's programming and possibly cover the cost of babysitting during the High Holidays and throughout the year.

Everyone who sells the candy is a winner! There are prizes for all levels of sales.

Local top winners will get a special lunch with Rabbi Haber and a \$25 gift certificate! Sales kits are available from Mrs. Pollock or from the Bnai Israel office. Sales will begin this Sunday, February 4th and all orders must be in by Purim, March 1st.

### KARP/SROKA MEMORIAL FUND

The following offer came from the *Richmond Jewish Foundation*.

The Karp/Sroka Memorial Fund provides need-based scholarships to children from the Richmond, VA and **Tidewater** metropolitan areas for Jewish overnights camps.

Generally, grants are approximately \$375 - \$500.

For more information, please contact: <http://www.rjfoundation.org/scholarships/>

Deadline: March 2, 2018

## Thank You to our Contributors

To Henrietta Schatz for her contribution to the Bnai Israel Yahrtzeit Fund in memory of her brother, Stanley Potts.

To Henrietta Schatz for her contribution to the Cemetery Fund of Bnai Israel Congregation in memory of her brother, Stanley Potts

To Thomas & Marcia Potts for their contribution to the Bnai Israel Yahrtzeit Fund in memory of Tommy's father, Stanley Potts.

To Thomas & Marcia Potts for their contribution to the Bnai Israel Yahrtzeit Fund in memory of Tommy's mother, Frances Potts.

To Michael & Mitzi Ashe for their contribution to the Bnai Israel Yahrtzeit Fund in memory of Mike's mother, Adele Ashe.

To Michael & Mitzi Ashe for their contribution to the Bnai Israel Yahrtzeit Fund in memory of their brother-in-law, Bernard Miller.

To Chestnut Holdings for their contribution to Bnai Israel Congregation.

To Dr. Moussa & Evelyn Menasha for their contribution to the Bnai Israel Yahrtzeit Fund in memory of their fathers, Youssef Menasha and Zaki Lichaa.

To Dr. Ludwig & Ruth Sternlicht for their contribution to the Bnai Israel Congregation for the refuah shelaima of their son-in-law, David Haas.

## For the Week of Shabbos, February 3rd through Friday, February 9th

### BIRTHDAYS

Amy Becker		2/3
Dovie Tessler	14th	2/3
Esther Gella Weinreb	4th	2/3
Shira Bauman	10th	2/4
Chana Slone	1st	2/7
Sara Rus Harpaz	5th	2/8
Irene B. Mazel		2/9

### YAHRTZEITS

Lena Legum	2/3	Edward Burt Kleinman	2/7
Margaret Soled	2/3	Rabbi Ephraim Minsberg	2/7
Goldie Yavner	2/3	Irving Anker	2/8
Stanley Potts	2/4	Dorothy Bregman	2/8
Fred Aron	2/6	Maxine Moses Garnher	2/8
Zaki Lichaa	2/6	Edward B. Lubschutz	2/8
David Slomowitz	2/6	Rebecca Rosenberg	2/8

### REFUAH SHELAIMA

#### Women

Shoshana bas Miriam	Adi Simcha bas Penina Leah	Sheva bas Rivka	Tye Miriam bas Zehavit
Vittel Zilke bas Leah	Aida Batya bas Etta	Chaya Ruchel bas Zelda	Yehudis Sima bas Alta Ruchel
Leah Adina bas Chaya Esther	Chaya Tova Gittel bas Shulamis Sima	Shira bas Sarah	Chaya bas Ruchel
Yochana bas Chana	Elka Gittel bas Basya	Nechama Getzel bas Rachel	Chana Rochel bas Sara
Nava bas Fruma Leah	Chana Yitta bas Bryna	Ruchama Malka Briendel bas Shai- na Shifra	Ginendal Sarah bas Perel
Basha Leiba bas Baila Fruma	Yehudis bas Irma	Miriam bas Chava	Chana Bracha bas Sara
Simcha bas Tzipporah	Bayla Mishka bas Devora	Leah Aviva bas Masha	Arielle Mazal Tov bas Eliane
Malka Esther bas Devorah	Malka Chana bas Ruchel	Rochel bas Tova	Miril bas Ida Hudya
Devorah bas Ruchel	Miriam bas Tzipora	Chaya Rochel bas Esti Rivka	Sara bat Zipporah
Sara Bas Sara	Chaya Raizel bas Dena	Rivka bas Chaya Ruchel	Devora Faiga bas Malka
Miriam Rochel bas Chava Elisheva	Chana bas Sarah	Rivka bas Yocheved	Shoshana Aliza bas Aviva Michal
Kayla Dodie bas Rochel Bracha	Devora Leah bas Civet Elkie	Tzippora Aviva bas Rivka	Miriam Chava Chana Devora bas Shaindel Chaya Rivka
Rochel Bracha bas Baila	Samecha Yehudis bas Esther	Devora Rivka bas Tzipora	Batya Pia bas Chaya Ruchel
Tirtze Sorah bas Rochel Bracha	Adi Bat Miriam	Raizel Shoshana bas Faiga Leah	Etti bas Avraham HaCohen
Rivka Tehilla bas Sarah	Chana Leah bas Fraydel	Orly Rachel Bat Yehudit Rus	
Hinda bas Dena	Ruth bas Sarah	Leah Rivka bas Sarah	
Shula bas Carmela	Chaya bas Ruchel	Yehudis bas Chana Leah	
Eliana Chaya bas Nacha	Tinokes bas Esther Hadassah		

#### Men

Shalom Boruch ben Masha	Yissachar ben Rachel	Dovid Leshem ben Esther	Tinok ben Rochel
Yehuda ben Chasha Ruchel	Binyamin Leib ben Rachel Chana	Chaim Yaakov Dovid ben Avigail	Shlomo Yoel ben Chaya Leah
Moshe Yechezkel Halevi ben Sara Malka	Zecharia Avraham ben Devorah Rivka	Abba ben Tzipora	Chanina Getzl ben Chana Fradel
Reuven Simcha ben Naomi Rus	Nosson Yitzhak Ben Leah	Pesach ben Baila	Meyer Yisroel Hirsch ben Zahava Zippora
Yonah Michael Alter ben Esther Sarah	Moshe ben Raizel	Rachmiel Leib ben Mordechai HaLevi	Shlomo ben Na'ami
Aryeh Nachman HaCohen ben Ita	Eliezer ben Penina Kaila	Chaim Rafael Yoel ben Shayna Golda	Eliyahu Yaakov ben Sarah Roiza
Shlomo ben Tzipporah	Meir Yehoshua ben Penina Kaila	Daniel Yosef ben Miriam	Yitzhak Mordechai ben Yehudis Sima
David Shlomo ben Rivka Tehilla	Beryl ben Chava	Moshe Yosef ben Esther	Chaim bas Shifra
Koppel ben Bayla	Shmuel Yeruchem ben Baila	Reuven HaCohen ben Sarah	Dovid Avraham HaCohen ben Libby Yeshia
Yonatan ben Rivka	Yehoshua ben Nechama Aliza	Eitan Shmuel bas Chana Leah	
Abraham ben Iza	Menachem ben Tzipka	Eliezer Yehuda ben Chana Shaindel	
Yoel Meir ben Chaya	Avraham ben Chana	Yisroel Shmuel ben Sarah	
Yehudah Ben Batya	Asher Eliyahu ben Leah	Chaim Avraham ben Feiga	
Rafael Messod ben Naomi Sarah	Akiva Hillel Ben Cooki Tziporah Feige Gittel	Chaim Shmuel ben Rivka	
Eliezer ben Sara	Yehuda Herschel ben Chaya Leah	Eliyahu Aron ben Hudel	
Avraham Beryl HaLevi ben Miriam		Sholom Yehuda ben Fayga	

## THE B'NAI ISRAEL CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### Week of January 28th through February 3rd

**Shabbos, February 3rd:** Kiddush is sponsored by the Beth Sholom Village in honor of Project Kahbaid.

**Motzei Shabbos, February 3rd:** True Colors Paint Night with BINA (for women & girls only)

### Week of February 4th through February 10th

**Sunday, February 4th:** Kollel trip to Lakewood (men only) - "Bake Your Own Matzos" (leaving Motzei Shabbos 12:30 A)

**Sunday, February 4th:** Start of Heichal Shlomo - Youth programming

**Monday, February 5th: Esther: The Final Chapters** series of classes with Rabbi Haber. First class: **Chapter 9: Inventing Purim** at 7:15 PM

**Wednesday, February 7th:** Kollel Holiday Series: "Purim all in one basket" at the JCC

**Shabbos, February 10th:** Parshas Shekalim

**Shabbos, February 10th:** Kiddush is in memory of David Slomowitz, Frank Stern, and Ben Weininger by Dorothy & Norman Slone and Laurie & Jordan Slone

### Week of February 11th through February 17th

**Monday, February 12th:** BINA Yeseira in the Fred Aron Education Wing

**Thursday, February 15th - Friday, February 16th:** Rosh Chodesh Adar

**Friday, February 16th - Shabbos, February 17th:** Norfolk Kollel Scholar in Residence: Rabbi Yissachar Frand

**Shabbos, February 17th:** Chai Kiddush

### Week of February 18th through February 24th

**Sunday, February 18th:** Norfolk Kollel/Yeshivas Aish Kodesh Yarchei Kallah - day 1

**Monday, February 19th:** Norfolk Kollel/Yeshivas Aish Kodesh Yarchei Kallah - day 2

**Monday, February 20th: Esther: The Final Chapters** series of classes with Rabbi Haber. Second class: **Chapters 10 - 11: The Aftermath of Purim** at 7:15 PM

**Wednesday, February 21st:** Kollel Holiday Series: "The Queen Unmasked" at the JCC

**Shabbos, February 24th:** Parshas Zachor

**Shabbos, February 24th:** Special sponsored Kiddush

### Week of February 25th through March 3rd

**Sunday, February 25th:** BINA annual Purim Carnival at the JCC

**Monday, February 26th:** BINA Yeseira in the Fred Aron Education Wing

**Monday, February 27th: Esther: The Final Chapters** series of classes with Rabbi Haber. Third class: **Purim Today: Meaning, Laws & Purpose** at 7:15 PM

**Wednesday, February 28th:** Ta'anis Esther

**Thursday, March 1st:** Purim

**Friday, March 2nd:** Shushan Purim

**Shabbos, March 3rd:** Kiddush by Dr. Gedalia & Jodi Schwartz in honor of Sarah Minna Schwartz

### Week of March 4th through March 10th

**Wednesday, March 7th:** Kollel Holiday Series: "Let Them Eat Matzoh" at the JCC

**Shabbos, March 10th:** Parshas Parah

**Shabbos, March 10th:** Annual Toras Chaim Shabbos Lunch at Bnai Israel (reservation only)

### Week of March 11th through March 17th

**Monday, March 12th:** BINA Yeseira in the Fred Aron Education Wing

**Thursday, March 15th:** Kollel pre-Pesach Scotch and Steak, location to be announced.

**Shabbos, March 17th:** Rosh Chodesh Nisan

**Shabbos, March 17th:** Parshas HaChodesh

### Week of March 18th through March 24th

**Wednesday, March 21st:** Kollel Holiday Series: "The Exodus Revisited" at the JCC

**Shabbos, March 24th:** Shabbos HaGodol

**Shabbos, March 24th:** Bar Mitzva of Chaim Dov Lefkovitz

### Week of March 25th through March 31st

**Friday, March 30th:** Erev Pesach - Last time to eat Chometz (10:41 AM) & Last time to burn Chometz (11:55 AM)

**Shabbos, March 31st:** First day of Pesach

### Week of April 1st through April 7th

**Sunday, April 1st through April 7th:** Pesach

### Week of April 8th through April 14th

**Monday, April 9th:** Rabbi Haber starting a Pirkei Avos class at the JCC on Mondays at noon



## HONOR YOUR PARENTS

By Rabbi Yaacov Haber

**"Honor your father and mother so that you will have long days on the land which God gave to you"** (Ten Commandments).

Out of 613 mitzvos, this is one of the two that carry with it a longevity incentive. If I honor my parents I will live long.

A closer look at the wording seems to imply something different. 'Long life on the land. The land refers to the Land of Israel. Why is the location of my long life pertinent? Why should the reward for this mitzvah specify the land of Israel?

I would like to offer a rather unconventional interpretation to a very conventional verse.

Perhaps the above mentioned mitzvah does not refer to longevity. Instead, at issue here is the secret of the longevity in fact the eternity of the people of Israel.

In the journal, 'Dos Yiddische Vort', Rabbi Moshe Sherer, the head of the Agudas Israel in America, describes how he was traveling by plane, together with Rabbi Yaakov Kaminetzky of blessed memory, to New York from a world gathering of Agudas Israel in Jerusalem. Rabbi Sherer was sitting in the row behind Rabbi Kaminetzky. Next to Rabbi Kaminetzky was Yeruham Meshel, then general secretary of the Histadrut, the Israeli Labor Federation.

Mr. Meshel and Rabbi Kaminetzky had a conversation during the trip, which Rabbi Sherer could overhear. Mr. Meshel, not a religious Jew, was asking Rabbi Kaminetzky many questions about Judaism, all of which Rabbi Kaminetzky answered.

Finally, as the plane landed in New York, Rabbi Kaminetzky asked Mr. Meshel, Is there anything I have said to you in the course of our whole conversation which might cause you to change your way of life to be an observant Jew?

"No," Mr. Meshel answered, "there is nothing in what you said that might cause me to change my lifestyle. However, there is something you did not say which might make me change my mind, explain how it is that your son behaves as he does.

Indeed, for most of the trip, Rabbi Kaminetzky's son, instead of remaining in his own seat, stood in the aisle next to his father, tending to his comfort, rearranging his cushions, bringing him something to drink, and so on.

I wouldn't dream of asking my children to do anything for me. What is there in Judaism that gets your son to behave in this way?

"It's very simple", replied the rabbi, "and I can explain it to you briefly. In your outlook, the emphasis is on human progress, human improvement. This means that you look at your grandparents as primitive, as living in the dark ages, and your parents also, to a lesser extent. It also means that your children, in turn, look at you as backward. So why should they show you honor? In our outlook, it is the opposite. Each generation that is born is one step further removed from the Revelation of Sinai, and as generations pass the light of Revelation gets progressively dimmer. This means that each person honors his parents as being one generation closer to Sinai.

In its broadest sense the mitzvah of honoring our parents entails a basic respect for the previous generation. I view my parents and their generation as a valuable asset to my life and society. They are one step closer to the mountain, to the source of wisdom.

The promise of the Torah is not merely that I will live an extra few years in the merit of bringing my father a cup of tea. The agreement is that the people of Israel will carry on as long as we are connected to the past. If we recognize the importance of the generation which came before us, if we

respect the past, we can look forward to the future. This is how we will live a long life in the land of Israel that God gave to us.

Let us define the mitzvah of honoring one's parents. A Talmudic definition might be to bring them food and drink, stand up when they enter the room, do not sit in their place, etc. while it's true that these actions are merely manifestations or symptoms of the mitzvah. The actual mitzvah in the Torah is labeled as "kaved". This usually translates as "honor" or "respect". Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch teaches that the word is also related to the word "heavy" or more appropriately, "serious". The mitzvah might read, "Take your parents seriously".

All of us have found ourselves in a room full of strangers. If there isn't a particularly nice person around we will feel very uncomfortable. This feeling comes from the fact that our presence is as if non-existent, kal, light, and the opposite of Kaved. A very important person, would automatically be taken very seriously, kaved.

We have an obligation to make our parents important. To this end, suggests the Talmud, serve them food and drink, acknowledge their presence by standing up for them, do not call them by their first names, etc.

A common halachic error arises. Is there a mitzvah to listen to ones parents? Is obedience part of this mitzvah? The answer is, probably not. Although I have to show respect in every way possible to my parents and the generation from which I come, this does not obligate me in any way to heed their advice.

Shulchan Aruch brings a case of a father who insists that his son not marry a particular woman. Exclaims the Rama, "One does not have to listen to him." Although some authorities claim that this is only true in the case of marriage, most early halachists feel that there is never a mitzvah to heed ones parents advice. Even though to betray them in their presence would be disrespectful, there is no obligation for obedience. Rabbi Akiva Eiger concludes that although there is no obligation to abide by a parent's decision, by doing so, one fulfills the mitzvah of giving pleasure to ones parents.

What do we do when honoring our parents gets expensive? There is an argument in the Talmud whether one has to give honor with ones own money or with the parents money. For instance, if my father asks me for a cup of coffee, do I pay or does he? The Shulchan Aruch decides that, although the son is obligated to honor his parents despite being inconvenienced, he has no obligation to spend his own money. There is a story about a son who asked the rabbi if he has to spend money on the train fare to visit his mother in a neighboring town. The rabbi told him that he doesn't have to spend any money at all, he could walk there.

The Talmud tells a story about a certain gentile by the name of Ama ben Nesina. He was running a business and was approached by a group of rabbis who wished to purchase a precious jewel for the garments of the High Priest. Ama was of course very eager to sell but had a problem. The key he needed was under the pillow of his sleeping father. Ama said to the rabbis, I'd love to make the sale but I can't wake up my father. The eager rabbis offered him more money and kept raising the price, but Ama wouldn't hear of it. Finally the rabbis left. When they came back on a different day Ama said he would be honored to sell the rabbis the stone. They handed him the last amount they had offered, but Ama would not take it. He was willing to take only the amount they had originally offered. The next year, states the Talmud, a Red Heifer was born in Ama's farm. This is a very valuable cow and Ama made back all the money that he had originally given up.

Why didn't he awaken his father? He was not required to endure a financial loss for his father's sake. The Ran answers that, even though one does not have to spend money to give honor to ones parents, one must forego earning it. This may possibly mean that if in order to serve one's parents, one must close one's business, then one is obligated to do so.