

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Shemini

April 25, 2025 / 27 Nisan 5785

Volume 30, Issue 25

Candlelighting: 7:59 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · [www.clevelandjlc.com](http://www.clevelandjlc.com)

## Friday, April 25

6:35pm Early mincha  
7:59pm Candlelighting  
8:00pm Mincha

## Shabbos, April 26

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is available for sponsorship*  
6:50pm Pirke Avos  
7:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
9:09pm Maariv

## Sunday, April 27

9:15am Parsha Class  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, April 28 Rosh Chodesh

8:00pm Q & As – any topic

## Tuesday, April 29 Rosh Chodesh

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, April 30

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –  
Tehillim (R. Stoll)

## Thursday, May 1

8:00pm Sefer HaChinuch: R. Stoll  
10:15pm Parsha Class  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's  
"Torah Podcast" at Spotify,  
Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio,  
and more, or download at  
[www.maverickpodcasting.com](http://www.maverickpodcasting.com)

New episodes twice a week!

## Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)  
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)  
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

## Class Connection

**R. Nisenbaum:**  
425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly  
at all podcast locations

**R. Stoll:**  
Zoom: 876-619-3551  
Audio: 669-900-9128

## Parsha: Shemini

The inauguration of the Tabernacle occurred on the first day of the month of Nissan. Ahron, the High Priest, and his sons, were commanded to bring sacrifices, after which G-d's presence would be revealed to the people.

The sacrifices were offered and a fire descended from above and consumed the sacrifices that were on the altar. This was a sign that the people had been forgiven for the sin of the golden calf, and they rejoiced.

Unfortunately, the joy did not last long. Ahron's two oldest sons, Nadav and Avihu, brought their own pans of fire and incense to the altar, without being commanded to do so. A fire suddenly descended from Heaven and struck Nadav and Avihu dead. Ahron accepted the tragedy in silence and did not complain about G-d's harsh decree.

The Torah doesn't really explain why the sin was considered a capital offense. Some commentaries explain that they did not confer first with Moshe before bringing their own fire. Although they may have had valid reasons for bringing it, since it was without instruction, it was considered a "strange fire." This was especially true considering that the inauguration was supposed to complete the atonement for the golden calf, which had also been made without prior permission.

Immediately following Ahron's tragedy G-d instructed Ahron that the kohanim, or priests, were not allowed to do their service while under the influence of any intoxicating beverage. The Torah considers this to be a profanity of that which is holy. This is the only instance we find G-d speaking to Ahron alone. The Rabbis understand this as a reward for not complaining about his sons' death.

Many of the laws of *kashrus*, the dietary laws, are also discussed. Only land animals that chew their cud and have split hooves may be eaten. Marine animals must have both fins and scales. The Torah lists certain birds that may not be eaten. Although the Torah does not specify any physical characteristics, birds of prey are all prohibited. No reptiles or creeping animals may be eaten, except for certain types of grasshoppers.

The Torah does not really offer a reason for the dietary laws. Two points, however, are made: 1) that a Jew must sanctify his physical being by practicing discipline over what he eats; and 2) non-kosher species contaminate the Jewish soul and clog his "spiritual arteries", and thus must be avoided by Jews.

## Issue Sponsorship

By Ivan Goldberg on the occasion of  
his mother's yahrzeit,  
Liebsche bas Yitzchak

## Mazel Tov!

to Corey & Julie Leeson upon the  
engagement of their daughter

**Lessons From Our Fathers**  
New Monday series w/ R. Nisenbaum  
beginning May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8pm

## Insights: Shemini

**Every flying insect...it is an abomination to you. (Lev 11:20)** Rav Shlomo Gissinger was instrumental in creating an awareness to the modern kosher consumer of the prevalence of insect infestation in many vegetables. He would inform people that ingesting an insect can involve many more prohibitions than eating pork or shellfish. Upon examining a package of frozen vegetables from a nationally known company, he called the company to inform them that he had found over twenty insects in a single package. The executive was unimpressed and remarked only half-jokingly, "Don't you know that insects are a good source of protein?" Rav Gissinger said rather ruefully, "Try to contrast a comment like that with the Torah's equating a single insect to an abomination!"

## Did You Know?

The period between Pesach and Shavuot is called the Omer. The Omer was an offering brought on the second day of Pesach. The Torah instructs us to count seven week and forty-nine days, in preparation and anticipation for the receiving of the Torah. The Omer is counted each evening. A bracha is recited before counting. If, however, a person forgets to count one day, he should continue counting, but the bracha may no longer be recited. If a person remembered during the day that he had not yet counted, he may count during the day without a bracha and continue counting each evening with a bracha. If a person is uncertain if he counted or not, he may continue counting with a bracha.

**Thought for the Week: We assume we are not wasting time simply because we are timing waste.**  
(A Candle By Day)