ב"ה

PALM VOICE

Issue 4 · October 30, 2026

פרשת וירא · י״ט חשון תשפ״ז



Blessed Routine

Finally, after a long summer and a hectic *Yom Tov* schedule, we are all settling into a blessed routine. The daily rhythm is falling into place.

But, the cycle of life never stands still as the seasons come and go. Even here, in sunny Florida, where the change of seasons isn't marked by falling leaves or a sudden nip in the air, the turning of the calendar page announces itself in other ways.

Right now, our Florida landscape is moving to its unique seasonal routine.

The trickle of our annual guests and snowbirds has started. We see it in the longer lines at the supermarkets, at the pizza shop, and in the *shuls* humming with extra *minyanim* and activity.

This shift brings a beautiful energy. Once again we'll be greeting friendly, familiar faces we haven't seen in months. We might be preparing our guest rooms for visiting family, cooking some extra meals, and taking calls from friends up north inquiring about local attractions.

Change presents opportunity; opportunity to appreciate new vistas—in nature, friendships, business, health, creativity and so many other areas. It's a gentle reminder for us to live life in a richer, deeper, and more meaningful way.

Enjoy!



The Week

Parshas Vayeira · 20 Cheshvan 5787 · October 31, 2026

הדלקת הנרות

Aventura	6:22 PM	Okeechobee	6:23 PM
Boca Raton	6:21 PM	Orlando	6:23 PM
Hollywood	6:22 PM	Tampa	6:28 PM
Miami Beach	6:22 PM	West Palm Beach	6:20 PM

Zmanim

City	עלות	נץ החמה	קרי״ש	חצות	שקיעה	ר״ת	מוצש״ק
Aventura	6:16 AM	7:28 AM	10:16 AM	1:03 PM	6:39 PM	7:51 PM	7:29 PM
Boca Raton	6:17 AM	7:29 AM	10:16 AM	1:03 PM	6:38 PM	7:50 PM	7:28 PM
Hollywood	6:16 AM	7:28 AM	10:16 AM	1:03 PM	6:39 PM	7:51 PM	7:29 PM
Miami Beach	6:16 AM	7:28 AM	10:16 AM	1:03 PM	6:39 PM	7:51 PM	7:29 PM
Okeechobee	6:20 AM	7:32 AM	10:19 AM	1:06 PM	6:40 PM	7:52 PM	7:30 PM
Orlando	6:24 AM	7:36 AM	10:22 AM	1:08 PM	6:41 PM	7:53 PM	7:31 PM
Tampa	6:28 AM	7:40 AM	10:26 AM	1:13 PM	6:46 PM	7:58 PM	7:36 PM
West Palm Beach	6:17 AM	7:29 AM	10:16 AM	1:03 PM	6:38 PM	7:50 PM	7:28 PM

Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
86°/ 77°	85°/ 78°	85°/ 77°	84°/ 76°

Miami Beach — Sunny then Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms



A Word of Wisdom

A Chassidic Insight into Parashas Vayeira and the Structured Pillar of Chessed

Emulating Hashem: Visiting the Sick

Parashas Vayeira opens with one of the most powerful lessons in human history: *Hashem* pausing His running of the Universe to perform the *mitzvah* of *bikur cholim*.

The *Mishna* in Pirkei Avos teaches that the world stands on three pillars: *Torah*, *avodah* and *gemilas chassadim*. *Torah* and *avodah* are readily attended to. People make sure to *daven* every day and set aside time to learn *Torah*, whether it be the whole day or a nightly *shiur*. But what about *chessed*? Our *chessed* is often left to chance. We are ready to help anyone in need; all they have to do is ask. Why should we not treat *chessed* as we do *Torah* and *avodah*? We must set aside time to do it. We all need a daily dose of *chessed*.

A very practical area of *chessed* is the *mitzvah* of *bikur cholim*. The *Orech HaShulchan* in *Yoreh Deah* tells us that it is a "*mitzvah hagadol b'yoseir* - An exceedingly great mitzvah." Although all *mitzvos* are special, there are those that are exceptional. These are the *mitzvos* that the *Ribono Shel Olam* practices Himself. *Bikur cholim* is one of them.

The *Posuk* tells us in this week's *parasha*, "*vayeira eilov Hashem* – *Hashem* appeared to Avraham." But the *Posuk* does not continue and tell us that Hashem told Avraham Avinu anything. *Rashi* explains that Hashem came simply to visit Avraham Avinu on the third, most painful day following his *bris milah*, for the purpose of *bikur cholim*. It behooves us to follow this example, for that is our purpose in life—to emulate Hashem.

Many of us feel that we don't have the time to go visit the sick. We have families, responsibilities, learning obligations and jobs. How can we make the time? But is there anyone busier than the Creator of the Universe? If Hashem can make time to visit a sick person, we must also find the time. No one's "time" is more important than that of the *Ribono Shel Olam*.

Still, there are a lot more reasons to do this *mitzvah*. The *Gemara* in *Nedarim* [40] discusses the reason and rewards for *bikur cholim*. There are many people who are uncomfortable around sick people, who shudder at the thought of entering a hospital. Perhaps we can all use the wonderful incentives the *Gemara* gives us to help us along. Rav tells us that whoever goes to visit the sick, *nitzol m'dino shel gihenom*, will be saved from the punishment of *gihenom*. We know we have failings and weaknesses, but with this *mitzvah* on our side, Hashem will pay us back *midah k'neged midah*, measure for measure. Just as we put out the "fires of sickness" when we visit a *choleh*, so too Hashem will put out the fires of *gihenom* for us.

There is not only reward for this *mitzvah* in *olam haba*, however. As we say in our early morning *berachos*, this is one of the deeds for which we reap reward in *olam hazeh* as well. We will surely appreciate this 'instant gratification.'

The great *tzaddik* Rabbi Moshe Teitelbaum, the *Yismach Moshe*, takes this connection a step further. He asks: Why does the *Torah* explicitly emphasize that Hashem appeared to Avraham in the heat of the day ("kechom hayom")? He explains that Hashem deliberately brought out an intense, scorching heat to prevent wayfarers from troubling Avraham. However, when Hashem saw Avraham's deep distress over his inability to welcome guests and do *chessed*, Hashem Himself appeared to Avraham as a guest.

The *Yismach Moshe* teaches, look at the incredible warmth of a Jew! The physical weather was burning hot, and Avraham was burning with the feverish pain of his bris. Yet, the only "fire" consuming Avraham Avinu was the burning desire to do *chessed* for another human being. When we break through our own discomfort, and our busy schedules to visit a patient, we kindle that exact same ancestral fire inside ourselves. By walking into a hospital room to cool the fever of a fellow Yid, we show Hashem that our hearts burn with His essence. It is this daily commitment to practical *chessed* that reaps fruits in *olam hazeh* while the principal reward will continue to protect us in *olam haba*.

(Adopted from the sefer *Oir Ha'meir*)

News

Two Jewish Candidates Vying For Votes in New FL District

Delray Beach, FL. – In the race to represent Florida's newly redrawn Congressional District 25 – one of the most heavily Jewish districts in the country – voters heard last week Tuesday evening from prospective candidates for the first time during public forum at a synagogue event in Boca Raton.

It is interesting to note that both candidates - Incumbent Rep. Jared Moskowitz and his Republican challenger, Scott Singer, who are both Jewish - were wearing *kippahs* at their debate forum.

While the candidates spent some time discussing foreign policy and domestic issues, including insurance costs, Social Security, taxes, stock trading and ethics, most of the forum focused on the subject of antisemitism. This is an issue which is key to Jewish voters, who make up an estimated 25 percent of the majority coastal district, which runs from Delray Beach all the way to Miami Beach.

The race, set to be one of the most expensive in the nation, is a highly competitive one, according to many political analysts.

Despite some tense moments between Moskowitz and Singer, who was Boca Raton's mayor until earlier this year, the two politicians have been vocally outspoken on the issue of hatred toward Jews, which both of them agreed must be denounced.

• • •

Veterans Weekend Celebration

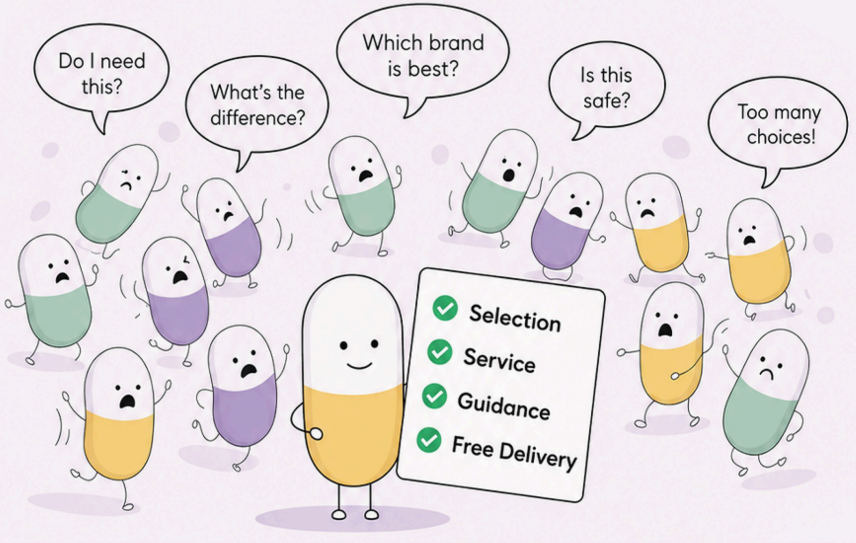
Orlando, FL. – In honor of Veterans Day, SeaWorld Orlando is to recognize and celebrate the bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of active military members and veterans.

During this weekend, guests can experience special tributes including the National Anthem Ceremony, a Hero Salute at Orca Stadium, and a special firework lighting each evening. These meaningful activations reflect an ongoing commitment to honoring those who have served The USA.

As the sun sets, the skies over Bayside Stadium light up with Veterans Fireworks Presented by Navy Federal Credit Union, held Friday through Sunday. The show features breathtaking fireworks display that ends the day on a truly patriotic note.



Too Many Bottles.
Not Enough Answers.



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Our History

A Series · Part 3

The Sunshine State's Jewish Awakening: A History of Vision, Resilience, & Growth

Recap:

With the purchase of over 50,000 acres in 1820 within Alachua County in Northern Florida—a tract that eventually grew to a staggering 100,000 acres—Moses Elias Levy's dream started to come to fruition. In 1823, his business partner, Frederick Warburg, arrived, accompanied by 21 eager Jewish settlers, all looking to build a new life.

However, this early sanctuary was not destined to last. The community endured for just 13 years until the dark clouds of the Second Seminole War broke out in 1835, at which point the fragile settlement was forced to disperse. While the venture ultimately proved to be a heavy financial failure for Levy, in the grander scheme of history, it marked the very first Jewish farming settlement in the United States, breaking boundaries and opening up a world of new possibilities for a persecuted people fleeing the hardships of Europe.

In a fascinating turn of *hashgacha pratis,* a portion of the very same land once used for this pioneering Jewish colony in Micanopy now forms the main campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville. This institution has grown to boast the largest Jewish student population of any public university in the United States—a living testament to the fruits of Levy's early seeds.

Florida Becomes a State

On March 3, 1845, Florida officially became the 27th state of the United States. Out of a total territory population of some 66,500 residents, there were fewer than one hundred *Yidden* living in the entire state.

Moses Levy's own son, David Levy Yulee, went on to serve as the very first U.S. Senator from the State of Florida, marking a major historical milestone as the first Jew to sit in the United States Senate. Recognized by historians as the "Architect of Florida Statehood," Yulee helped draft the state's first Constitution and later organized Florida's first cross-state railroad in 1853. Today, his legacy remains etched onto the local geography: Levy County on the Gulf Coast in Northwest Florida, and the town of Yulee in Nassau County, are both named in his honor.

Throughout the second half of the 19th century, Florida's Jewish population continued its slow and steady growth, with the city of Jacksonville serving as the vibrant heart of this early expansion. It was there that a Jewish cemetery—the very first formal Jewish institution in the state—was established in 1857. A generation later, in 1876, Jacksonville saw the formation of Florida's first official synagogue congregation. By the turn of the century in 1900, six distinct congregations had been successfully established across Northern Florida, anchoring the community's early spiritual life.

Read about the First Jewish person to settle down in Miami, in next week's issue of The Palm Voice

Feature

Lakefront Estates Captures National Attention

Okeechobee, FL. – The new *chasidish* development in Okeechobee, Florida, has captured national attention with a prominent *New York Post* report highlighting a significant Jewish migration from New York. The feature focuses on Lakefront Estates, in Glades County where about 80 families have already settled and many more plan to follow *b'ezras Hashem*. The development already has the infrastructure in place to support a *heimishe* community, including a cheder, girls' school, supermarket and a vibrant *shul*.

According to the report, families are choosing to leave New York due to crushing taxes, unaffordable housing, and concerns over a rise in antisemitism. While the new establishment too has faced its own antisemitic incident by far-right online personalities venting against it, recent NYPD figures cited in the article show that hate crimes in NY have shot up nearly 16% year-over-year, with anti-Jewish incidents making up about half of all reported attacks.

Former Brooklyn residents, especially from areas like Borough Park, cited antisemitism as a key reason for moving to Florida. Additionally, New York State Assemblyman Aron Wieder confirmed that some 20 families from his Rockland County District moved to Lakefront Estates for the same reason.

The continued development of the community marks new milestones every day, as more of the infrastructure is completed and more families settle into their spacious new homes to build a safe, beautiful *kehilah* of *ehrlich* children in a dedicated, thriving *Yiddish* environment.

Mazel Tov

Engagements

- Levi Smith (ben R' Eily) – North Miami Beach, to Chana Singer (bas R' Yisroel) – Manchester
- Zalmy Chein (ben R' Yudi) – Ottawa, Ontario, to Atti Chanin (bas R' Shmuel) – Hollywood, Florida

Births

- A baby girl to R' Shui and Sheva (née Tennenhaus) Kastel – Hollywood, Florida

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Word search

All Around Florida

Find the eleven Florida places hidden in the grid: Fort Lauderdale, Boca Raton, Tampa, Orlando, Okeechobee, West Palm Beach, Hollywood, Surfside, Miami, Aventura and Florida. The words run across, down and on a slant, forwards and backwards.

B L A K V U U N R P N I K U H D I Q A A G K C R
Y Z E P C Y I D T A B G I I C F E O J R N B W N
O N E L A D R E D U A L T R O F B N X U L N E X
L L D W Y I W I Z B Z K R I A P M A T T R N Z A
L D N M E X P A D P B W E W I W Z E X N S N S T
G I X L M S K M L V N U X C K Q O H E E V P Z O
C X K D J G T F R U T S L F B F O Z J V J P A J
S N H Y Q L A P J L K Z G H F O L J P A M D L K
R Y H U L J V D A Z O C F G F N R S L A I K A K
S S J J H P B C B L J N V T X C W A F R V V Y H
X B O B W L I L S A M G R Y S J Y L O W M A T F
F T I E I G H D X O U B X C S U M L K Q P N U U
R M I A M I M M G K P O E A J Q F Q I X S J L B
F L L O N X Q L T E Q E P A Z K W R C K O V G N
H T O R M J Z Q A E T R Q G C T Z Z D U S A E S
K S N L U J G E X C S D I Y J H W X O U S K W P
S T O A P L V N I H T G O H V Q W F R P U A P Y
N Z T N T X L K J O Z W W U W L L F O J M Q E B
E C A D C E F X I B F I Q S J I S Q R U R N A W
M B R O Z N K T L E N H Z N Z I X W E D G W P G
Y W A W I H N Y Z E C L Z U D A H D N X F K H I
K S C P E F W N P F C G W E M Z I L G X J T C C
N X O M S A Y M Q I N P I Q Z Q M R S K J I V T
A S B M B S D O O W Y L L O H C I M F E B N E G

Fort Lauderdale Boca Raton Tampa Orlando Okeechobee
West Palm Beach Hollywood Surfside Miami Aventura Florida

In Focus

Davening All Day

"Halvai sheyispallel adam kol hayom kulo"—"Would it be that a person could pray all day long." This famous Talmudic dictum, taught by the Amora Rabbi Yochanan (Berachos 2la), captures the ideal Jewish yearning for constant connection to the *Eibishter*. The point is, that while the soul might wish to daven without interruption, *halachah* operates within a framework of strict boundaries, grounded in the proper time of the day, called *zman tefillah*.

This week marks the start of Daylight Saving Time (DST). This comes as a renewed debate emerges over instituting permanent DST across the country. Eight years after an initial push to institute year-round DST in the Sunshine State, the debate surrounding its halachic ramifications continues to reverberate deeply throughout Florida's Orthodox Jewish community. Far from allowing people to *daven* all day, locking the clocks into permanent DST would compress the morning schedule so severely that many would struggle to daven at the proper time at all. Therefore, local Jewish *askanim* have been busy lobbying lawmakers to reject the federal Sunshine Protection Act, highlighting the profound, disruptive chain reaction it would trigger across Orthodox daily life.

While proponents point to the economic perks of an extra hour of afternoon light for Florida's vital tourism industry, shifting the solar clock an hour later poses unprecedented structural obstacles for residents and winter visitors alike.

The Halachic Complications

- **Shacharis and Tefillin Limitations:** Our morning rituals are strictly bound by the sun. A man cannot put on a *tallis* or *tefillin* with a *bracha* until *misheyakir* (when there is enough light to recognize a familiar friend), and the primary window for *Shacharis* begins at *netz hachamah*. Under permanent winter DST, sunrise in parts of Florida would be as late as 8:05 a.m.
- **Work and School Disruption:** With *tefillin* and *Shemoneh Esrei* pushed so late, a standard morning *minyan* would become practically impossible for working men who must clock in by 8:30 or 9:00 a.m., and for parents managing carpools. A *frum* Jew would be forced to choose between *tefillah b'tzibbur* and his *parnassah*.
- **Motzei Shabbos Delay:** The shift also delays *shkiyah* by an hour, so *Shabbos* ends significantly later. This would directly harm *frum* business owners—such as kosher restaurants and stores—who open on *Motzei Shabbos* in winter to make up for early Friday closures. A late *havdalah* cuts deep into their few remaining hours.

Rabbi Yochanan envisioned a life elevated by continuous prayer. Ironically, by artificially shifting the hands of the clock, permanent DST threatens the very *zmanim* that make structured, daily communal prayer possible.

Classifieds & Announcements

Bais Avrohom Yitzchok – Century Village

2518 N. Haverhill Rd, West Palm Beach, Florida

Zmanim for Parshas Vayeira

Shacharis

1st minyan: Brachos 7:00 · Hodu 7:10

2nd minyan: Brachos 8:00 · Hodu 8:10

3rd minyan: Brachos 9:15 · Hodu 9:25

4th minyan: Brachos 10:15 · Hodu 10:20

Mincha

1st minyan: Korbanos 2:00 PM · Ashrei 2:05 PM

2nd minyan: Korbanos 7:20 PM · Ashrei 7:25 PM

Shiur Mishnayos: 7:35 PM

Maariv

1st minyan: 7:55 PM

2nd minyan: 9:30 PM

Congregation Aitz Chaim

2518 Haverhill Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33417

Zmanei Tefillah (Prayer Schedule)

Shacharis

Sunday – Friday: 8:00 AM

Shabbos (Saturday): 9:00 AM

Mincha / Ma'ariv

Sunday – Friday: 6:30 PM

Shabbos Mincha: 7:24 PM

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Note: Since specific daily zmanim (like sunset-dependent Mincha and Ma'ariv times) shift dynamically throughout the year, please check the official Aitz Chaim website or contact the shul directly.

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Q. Is there any way to get hardboiled eggs just right? My eggs always come out too soft or too overcooked. No gadgets please!

Bluma

Reader's Responses to last week's Palm Q:

Expo marker is easily removable with Palm(!)olive dish soap and NO water. Rub in the Palmolive until the stain is gone, and then rinse.

Mali G., Surfside.

We don't drive down to save money. It's not cheaper. We enjoy the ride, and don't miss the pressure of traffic, missed flights going through security, etc. The best part is having our own car with us and not having to go to car rental pick up and return, especially in Miami International.

S. Klein, Boca Raton.

Filling up the gas tank at least five times is pretty expensive, even when the prices are not so high. It's worth it though. There are some really nice rest areas along the way, including one with massage chairs! There's also a long scenic route along the coastline but that's more expensive.

Avi Shafran, Hollywood.

Take along as much luggage as you please, that's worth any price.

M. Isaacsohn, Delray Beach.

To ask or respond to a question, please email editor@thepalmvoice.com.

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