

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Parshat Shavuot

@ Chabad of Coral Springs



**Mazal Tov:**

*Ari and Chaya Elieffa, and their children,  
Chanoch and Bassie Rosenfeld,  
on the birth of a baby boy,  
Nosson Yosef Chaim HaKohein!*

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*Granat family on the birth of a granddaughter  
to their daughter, Rivka and Shneur Prigan*

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*Rabbi & Mrs. Jitschak Rosenbloom,  
on the birth of a new granddaughter.*

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*Sincere condolences to the Urisov family on the  
passing of Tzvi's father, Moshe Velvel ben Uri*

**Davening Times & Information**

**Friday Candle Lighting:** 7:46 p.m.

**Shabbat Ends:** 8:43 p.m.

**Tzeit Hakochavim (Friday):** 8:30 p.m.

**Shabbat:** 8:15 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

**Shabbat Mincha:** 7:50 p.m.

**Sunday:** 8:00a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

**Weekdays:** 6:45 a.m., 7:45 a.m. & 8:45 a.m.

**Mincha & Ma'ariv:** 8:00 p.m.

**Ma'ariv, 2<sup>rd</sup> Minyan:** 9:30 p.m.

**05/24 Earliest Tallis & Tefillin:** 5:44 a.m.

**Latest time for Shma:** 9:52 a.m.

**05/29 Earliest Tallis & Tefillin:** 5:43 a.m.

**Latest time for Shma:** 9:52 a.m.

**Shavuos Learning Schedule on the bulletin board.**

# TIMELESS TORAH

By: Rabbi Yossie Denburg

## **IF we REPLACED SINAI with AI**

Today was a first. I asked AI to write a *better, updated 10 Commandments*. One applicable to modern life. The result sounded like a greeting-card jingle rather than a soulful symphony. I then asked it to create a new set of Commandments. It had generic clichés, but nothing original. It was like comparing a store mannequin to a real person. It accomplished this by simply reframing *Absolute Commandments* into *suggested ethical principles*, shifting a religious covenant into a secular framework for personal well-being and social stability.

To many, AI is seen as a win for atheism, persuading many that our minds are just computers, disconnected from a Divine soul. To some, human consciousness is an intimate experience that machines will never emulate. Silicon Valley techies are unsure where they stand. Beneath a materialist veneer, quite a few dabble in Buddhist metaphysics or apocalyptic doomsaying. Others view an all-knowing AI with supernatural awe as one might an oracle.

Meanwhile, committed Darwinians are left with an unresolved question. To them, human consciousness (like everything else on the planet) evolved to serve some crucial evolutionary purpose. But what is it? If AI displays capacities associated with conscious minds (and machines possess no consciousness) then to what purpose does our sense of self exist? There is no obvious escape from this mystery. On one hand, why do we experience reality through an internal **I**, a sense of personal identity, perceiving good vs. evil? Conversely, if consciousness isn't necessary, then humans should ultimately evolve into calculating zombies. In Judaism, consciousness is fundamental. It is where *matter* ends and *spirit* begins.

In 1876, Princeton's newspaper argued that using proctors to monitor exams created '*bad moral education*.' Treat students as presumptively dishonest, and they would become so; treat them as honorable, and they would behave honorably. Hence the editor's take: "*Let every man write at the end of his paper a pledge that he has neither given nor received help and let professors address themselves to some better business than watching for fraud.*"

That proposal was eventually embodied in Princeton's famous Honor Code and modified only lightly in the ensuing years. At final exams, professors left, students wrote a pledge not to cheat and report anyone who did. The Honor Code had a good run. F. Scott Fitzgerald (Princeton, 1913) wrote that violating it, "*simply doesn't occur to you, any more than it would occur to you to rifle your roommate's pocketbook.*" The code lasted through world wars, the 1960s upheaval, the Watergate disillusionment,

and the rise of search engines. It finally met its match in generative AI. Now cheating is too obvious to ignore, so Princeton's faculty voted to begin proctoring exams. Technically, the Code is still in place. Students still sign a pledge, but now professors are watching to make sure. The Honor Code isn't *honored* anymore.

Obviously, some students always cheated. Back then, however, academic dishonesty was constrained not only by codes of conduct but by the effort it required. A student wanting to cheat had to find someone who would let them copy their work. AI lowered the cheating barrier. The result: 30% of graduating seniors admitted to cheating, and 45% said that they knew of cheating by a peer and chose to ignore it. AI has made it all too easy. It can mimic any writing style, produce a unique essay, and add typos to make it appear man-made.

AI proved the editors at Princeton right. We are imparting a '*bad moral education*.' It's so bad that students now unabashedly post about violating the Honor Code on the campus's anonymous social-media app. That makes students who play by the rules feel foolish. So Princeton is trying to reset: Proctors, fewer take-home exams, more in-class writing, and requiring an oral defense of research projects. The '*system of suspicion and surveillance*' is making a comeback, and it is changing the student-faculty relationship into a form of police state education.

Sinai's Commandments are a throwback. Chasidic story: On Passover eve, Rabbi Levi Yitzchok of Berdichev (late 1700s) sent his students to buy contraband Turkish tobacco and *chametz* (leavened bread). Although tobacco was strictly prohibited with a severe penalty, for the right price it could be had. But when the students approached their fellow Jews for *chametz*, they were met with shock. Not a single crumb could be found, as all had scrupulously cleared their homes.

When the students returned with the illegal tobacco but no *chametz*, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak looked to the heavens: *Master of the Universe! Look at Your people! The Russian Czar has soldiers on every corner, yet for money, one can buy contraband tobacco. You, King of Kings, have forbidden chametz on Pesach, and without any guards, no Jew has any! How special is Israel!* This story emphasizes that despite our flaws, we follow G-d's laws out of love and commitment.

AI's suggestions will never be mandates and pledges of honor will never be mitzvohs. Sinai's commandments have no proctors. Doing them or not is never reported to your local Rabbi. Princeton's pledge lasted 150 years, Sinai's is still going strong after 3,338.

AI can't make you a better writer. It can make you lazier. But don't fret, most of society is giving you a green light. Sinai's commandments, however, will make you a better Jew. Society doesn't appreciate Sinai, which is an antidote against lethargy and points to a busy, holy lifestyle. We dare not let AI direct our days on earth. Instead, seek out Sinai, climb your mountain and travel the road to Heaven.

# SHAVUOS Schedule

5786-2026

Thursday Night 5/21



Candle lighting:

7:46 PM



Minchah:

7:55 PM



All-night learning:

11:00 PM

Friday 5/22



Shacharis:

8:15, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00 AM



Aseres Hadibros:

9:30, 11:15, 11:45 AM 12:15 PM



Minchah:

7:55 PM



Candle lighting:

7:46 PM

from a preexisting flame

Shabbos 5/23



Shacharis:

8:15, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00 AM



Yizkor:

9:45 AM, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30



Minchah & Farbrengen:

7:15 PM



Shabbos/ Yom Tov ends:

8:43 PM

קבלת התורה בשמחה ובפנימיות!