

ARTSCROLL UPDATE

Children's Tehillim Published! – With no small excitement, ArtScroll announces the release of the *ArtScroll Children's Tehillim* by acclaimed children's author **Shmuel Blitz**, who has many bestselling titles to his credit, including *The Children's Siddur*, *The Children's Haggadah*, and *A Treasury of Jewish Bedtime Stories*. Working closely with noted rabbis and educators, Blitz has carefully chosen over 40 psalms that children often recite and that they should be familiar with. The Hebrew text of each is printed in a large, easy-to-read format, followed by a verse-by-verse English rendering. As is common to other children's works by Blitz, every psalm in the *Children's Tehillim* also features fascinating and educational "Did You Know?" and "Closer Look" sidebar comments. The book is filled with beautiful full-color illustrations, created by the well-known artist **Tova Katz**. ArtScroll's General Editor, **Rabbi Nosson Scherman**, wrote the inspiring introduction.

Learning about Lag Ba'Omer – Many people anticipate the 33rd day of counting the Omer as a festive catalyst for bonfires, celebration, weddings, and haircuts. But there is much deeper importance to it. As *Lag Ba'Omer* approaches next week, now is the time to review the background, laws, and customs of this joyful day. And **Rabbi Shimon Finkelman's** *Lag Ba'Omer: Its obser-*

vance, laws, and significance is a perfect preparation for the day.

One of several popular volumes in the *ArtScroll Holiday Series* is *Lag Ba'Omer*. It draws from Talmudic and rabbinic sources and provides a brief yet comprehensive sweep of the day's rich history, lessons, and distinguished personalities, particularly **Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai**. The book includes the famous song that bears his name, along with an illuminating translation and commentary. The *Overview* section of *Lag Ba'Omer* was written by **Rabbi Nosson Scherman** and presents an absorbing hashkafic/philosophical analysis of many facets of this unusual day.

In addition, ArtScroll offers an excellent set of six *Lag Ba'Omer*-related readings available in the Series Two holiday edition of *A Daily Dose of Torah: Rabbinic Festivals & Fast Days*. This volume also includes readings for Tisha B'Av, Tu B'Av, Rosh Chodesh and much more.

Children will love to read about *Lag Ba'Omer* in *Lag Ba'Omer and Tu B'Shvat With Bina, Benny, and Chaggai Hayonah*, by celebrated children's author **Yaffa Ganz**. Rich in adventures and replete with illustrations, this is a book children always enjoy long after the holiday is past.

Harav Chaim Friedlander, the Tal Chaim of Liska, zy" a

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him in high esteem."

The Komarna Rebbe, **Reb Eliezer Tzvi Safrin**, the son of **Harav Eizikel Komarna**, who used to travel to **Reb Tzvi Hersh of Liska**, continued to visit **Liska**, to spend a Shabbos with the **Tal Chaim**. In fact, one year during his stay in **Liska**, he felt a depressing feeling when he suddenly realized that he had not gone to the **Ach Pri Tevuah's tziyun**. **Reb Yisroel Frankfurter**, a prominent **Komarna** chassid, writes in his memoirs that he was present when the **Tal Chaim** spent a Shabbos in the presence of **Reb Eliezer Tzvi of Komarna**.

Rav Tzvi Hersh of Liska, the **Tal Chaim's** son and successor (who was named after his grandfather, **Rav Tzvi Hersh of Liska**, the **Ach Pri Tevuah**), once recalled that the **Belzer Rav**, **Harav Yehoshua**, to whom the **Tal Chaim** traveled upon the *petirah* of his father-in-law, secluded himself in private with

his father for many hours, discussing the intricacies of *Toras haKabbalah*. When the **Tal Chaim** was pressed to reveal the contents of his discussion with the **Belzer Rav**, he replied, "This is precisely why the **Belzer Rav** is talking with me — he knows that it will remain confidential." In later years, his successor **Rav Tzvi Hersh** confirmed that the **Belzer Rav** had wanted to discuss with his father certain *Toras hanistar*. In fact, the **Belzer Rav** once referred to the **Tal Chaim** as "the Hungarian *Lamed Vav-nik*." Once, during a *tisch*, he took the **Tal Chaim's** plate and mixed the contents with those of his own plate, mixing the two portions and then distributing *shirayim*, which was very symbolic of his deep respect for him.

The **Tal Chaim's chiddushim** on *sugyos hashas* were recorded on paper only at the insistence of his father-in-law, who inquired if he was doing so, and, upon discovering that he was not, instructed him to begin

doing so. Upon being presented with the text, he reviewed it and kissed it.

The **Tal Chaim** authored the *Tal Chaim on Torah* and the *Tal Chaim U'Brachah on Shas*.

Mesirus Nefesh for Klal Yisrael

In 5604/1904, the political climate in Hungary drastically declined, and a decree was issued against the Jews, demanding that they give up their property and other decrees. The **Tal Chaim** was seen going to the *Liska beis medrash* and *davening* intensely there, prepared to sacrifice himself in order that the decree be nullified. One week later, on 9 Iyar, at the age of 64, the **Tal Chaim** choked while eating a portion of fish, and the decree was, in fact, abolished. His self-sacrifice as a *korban tzibbur* was accepted.

At his *levayah*, one of his *hespadim* was delivered by **Rav Avraham Yitzchak Glick**, the **Rav of Tolshava**, the *Ba'al Yad Yitzchak*, who summed up the life and ideals of the **Tal Chaim** by declaring, "Some can consider the **Liska Rav** a *batlan*; I say we are *batlanim*, for he was able to be *mater* an *agunah* with a *Tosafos*."

His family wanted to bury him in the *ohel* of his father-in-law, but the space was not large enough. The **Tal Chaim's** son, **Rav Tzvi Hersh Friedlander**, the *Ba'al Shaarei Hayosher*, decided that, at the very least, they would extend the roof, so that they could bury his father underneath the same roof. He came to the *Ohel* with a *minyán* of ten *Rabbanim* to ask forgiveness of the *Ach Pri Tevuah* for not burying his beloved son-in-law near him. The next day, a miracle happened. The walls of the *ohel* had shifted, and there was just enough room for the **Tal Chaim** to be buried near the *Ach Pri Tevuah*, where his *kever* still rests today.

His son, the *Shaarei Hayosher*, assumed his place in **Liska** and wrote over thirty *seforim*, only one (*Shaarei Hayosher on sefer Tehillim*) of which has survived. He and most of his family perished in the Holocaust. His son, **Rav Yozef Friedlander**, *mechaber* of *Tzvi V'Chammid*, resurrected and re-established the **Liska** court in **Boro Park, Brooklyn**.

Upon his passing in 5731/1971, his son, the current **Liska Rebbe**, **Rav Tzvi Hersh Friedlander**, *shlita*, the *baal Chamudei Tzvi*, was named his successor and continues the illustrious chain of **Liska Rabbanus**, following in the footsteps of his exalted ancestry.

Zechuso yagen aleinu.

Written by **Mindy Friedlander**. Sources provided by **Mechon Ohr Hayosher**, headed by **Harav Yisroel Friedlander**, *shlita*, publisher of a soon to-be-released biography of the **Tal Chaim of Liska**. If you have information about the **Tal Chaim**, please contact (718) 438 5950.



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