



TEFILAT YAMIM

PARSHAT EMOR

15 Iyar 5786 - 2 May 2026



Dear Community Family,

This week carries a weight that is both deeply personal and profoundly communal. The 5th of Iyar marked the first yahrzeit of Rabbi Sholom Ber

Lipskar, a towering figure in the Jewish world, and the Zaidy of our very own Rebbetzin.

But I also want to talk about this man, because I think much of his story, the parts that don't make the headlines, are exactly

the message we need to hear right now.

Before Rabbi Lipskar built what became one of the most remarkable Shuls in the world, he tried something else, and it didn't work. He came to the Miami area with a mission, stumbled, and had to start over. Most people, faced with that kind of setback, would have quietly found somewhere easier. He didn't. He came back, this time to Bal Harbour, a place that not long before his arrival did not even permit Jews to own homes.

Let me be specific about that, because it's important. Jews were barred from living in Bay Harbor Village

because residency required membership in the Bal Harbour Club, and the club did not accept Jews. That restriction wasn't lifted until the mid-1980s, and only after a lawsuit. This was not ancient history. This was the neighborhood Rabbi Lipskar chose to build in.

He would stand on street corners. He paid taxi cab drivers to come fill out a minyan. Brick by brick, with no fanfare, no guarantee of success, and no comfortable community waiting to welcome him.

One of the figures Rabbi Lipskar encountered in those early years was a man named Stanley

Whitman, by reputation a committed antisemite and white supremacist who had little use for the rabbi or his presence. Rather than keeping his distance, Rabbi Lipskar made it his quiet mission to one day confront him, face to face.

He eventually did.

And what did Whitman tell him? That he didn't hate *him*. He hated Jews who tried to pretend not to be Jews.

In other words, the one thing that could earn even this man's grudging respect was authenticity. A Jew unashamed of who he was, standing in the street, building a shul nobody asked for, in a neighborhood that

once excluded his people entirely.

Years later, Rabbi Lipskar was at a social gathering and met a young man. The young man introduced his girlfriend that was clearly not Jewish. The rabbi pulled him aside and told him, simply and honestly, that it was not going to work out. He pursued the connection. He stayed with it. And that man went on to raise a fully Torah-observant family, right here in Israel.

That's not a coincidence. That's what happens when someone refuses to only invest in the easy wins.

The Torah this week speaks of the *met mitzvah*, the unclaimed body that no one else will tend to. The halacha is extraordinary: even the Kohen Gadol, who is otherwise forbidden from any contact with the dead, *must* defile himself for a met mitzvah. Because if he doesn't do it, no one will.

The Sefer Chassidim applies this concept far beyond burial law. He writes that there are *mitzvot* that have been left for dead, the unpopular ones, the obscure ones, the ones nobody else is doing. And it is precisely those mitzvot that a person must pursue. Not

because they are easy. Because they are not.

Because if you only do what is comfortable, what is popular, what earns you applause, you will never truly grow. You will never truly connect. It is specifically the hard thing, the street corner minyan, the hostile neighborhood, the antisemite you choose to walk toward rather than away from, that transforms both the person doing it and the world around them.

That was Rabbi Lipskar's life. That was his legacy. Get it done. Over the top!

The greatest tribute we can pay to the memory of a man who stood on street corners and paid taxi drivers to make a

minyan is to do the same, in our own way, in our own place, with the same stubborn refusal to take the easy road.

The legacy of our people is not to jump on a bandwagon when it is easy. It is to carry

the wagon up the mountain when it is hard. That is what our grandparents did. That is what Rabbi Lipskar did. That is what our *chayalim*, our people, our soldiers, do every single day.

We are honored to be part of that chain.

May his merits protect us.

With love and with blessing,

Rav Mendel Wuensch

Kiddush Sponsors

Sharon and Jerry Glassman on the occasion of their return to Israel.

Marilyn and Louis Newman on the Yahrzeit of Marilyn's late Mother, Edith Spiro, Alta Yehudit bas Menachem Zev, on Lag B'Omer.

Weekday Minyan Schedule

7:30 AM Shachrit @ Beit Chabad Ir Yamim

7:15 PM Mincha/Maariv @ Be Pharmacy On Piano

Shabbat Schedule

Friday

6:59 PM Candle Lighting

7:00 PM Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat - Dvar Torah by Rav Mendel Wuensch

Shabbat Day

8:30 AM Shachrit - Dvar Torah by Rav Mendel Wuensch

9:45-10:30 AM Kid's Program

10:30 AM Kiddush

11:00 AM Kolot Yamim by Larry Posen

6:10 PM Rabbi David Rue Shiur

6:55 PM Mincha Followed By Seudat Shlishit "Raava D'Ravin" with Rav Mendel Wuensch

7:55 PM Arvit

8:01 PM Shabbat Ends

Weekday Events & Lecture Schedule

9-11 AM Monday Men's Kollel By Rav Mendel Wuensch @ Young Israel Of Poleg,
Hanurit St. 33, Poleg

8 PM Monday Sages Of The Ages Series By Rav Mendel Wuensch
@ Briga Towers, Ehud Manor 7 Beit Knesset/Tenants Room

10:30 AM Tuesday Family Purity Perspectives By Rebbetzin Itty @ Biscotti For
Women In Childbearing Years

5-6 PM Tuesday Programming For All Ages With Oryah Seminary! Mommy & Me,
Toddlers Room, Kid's Program, Teen Room & Women's Kollel
@ Tefilat Yamim, Corner of Beni Berman and Uzi Hitman Streets

11 AM Wednesday Experience Prayer Series By Rav Mendel Wuensch

Contact Info

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Location: Chaim Guri School, Corner of Beni Berman & Uzi Hitman Streets,
Entrance On Uzi Hitman Street