

### Hanukkah Perspectives

The accepted practice is to recite the *berakha* of *mezonot* over fried donuts, but there is some discussion among the halakhic authorities as to which *berakha* one recites if he eats a large quantity of donuts. Donuts are generally made from dough kneaded with sugar, margarine and other sweetening agents, and thus belong to the halakhic category of *pat ha-ba'a be-kisnin*. This category consists of different types of baked foods – such as cake – which share certain properties of bread, but are generally used as snacks. Since these foods serve a different function than bread, Halakha does not treat them like bread. Meaning, one does not recite *ha-motzi* before eating these foods or *birkat ha-mazon* afterward; rather, these foods require the *berakha* of *mezonot* before eating, and the *berakha acharona* of *al ha-michya* after eating. The exception to this rule, as the Shulchan Arukh writes (O.C. 168:6), is when a person eats an amount of these foods “over which others commonly establish a meal.” If a person eats a quantity of *pat ha-ba'a be-kisnin* that lends it the status of a “meal,” rather than a “snack,” then he must, indeed, recite *ha-motzi* and *birkat ha-mazon*. There is considerable discussion among the halakhic authorities as to what precise quantity of *pat ha-ba'a be-kisnin* transforms the food into a “meal.” According to many opinions, the consumption of three or four *ke-beitzim* – or approximately 6-8 fluid ounces – of these foods qualifies as a “meal” that requires *ha-motzi* and *birkat ha-mazon*.

Seemingly, then, a person who eats several donuts in one sitting would be required to first wash his hands and recite *ha-motzi*, and then, after eating, recite *birkat ha-mazon*.

In truth, however, this conclusion is far from clear. Later (168:13), the Shulchan Arukh addresses the status of dough that has been fried, rather than baked, and cites a difference of opinion in this regard. Several Rishonim, including the Rash Mi-Shantz and the Rambam, maintained that fried grain products can never assume the halakhic status of “bread” with respect to *berakhot*. In their view, the formal status of “bread” can be conferred only upon a baked product, and one would therefore not recite *ha-motzi* or *birkat ha-mazon* over a fried food in any situation. Rabbenu Tam, however, disagreed, and held that if the fried food was prepared in a thick batter, similar to the process of baking bread, then it requires *ha-motzi* and *birkat ha-mazon* just like bread. The Shulchan Arukh writes that a “God-fearing person” should avoid this debate, and ensure to eat these kinds of foods only with bread, so that he must in any event recite *ha-motzi* and *birkat ha-mazon* according to all opinions.

Returning, then, to the case of one who ate several donuts, the *berakhot* he recites before and after eating would depend on these two opinions. According to the first view, fried donuts can never obtain the status of bread, and therefore one recites *mezonot* and *al ha-michya* regardless of how many donuts eaten. The second view, by contrast, would likely require one to recite *ha-motzi* and *birkat ha-mazon*, since, according to this view, frying is no different than baking. Thus, just as large quantities of *pat ha-ba'a be-kisnin* require *ha-motzi* and *birkat ha-mazon*, similarly, this would be required of one who eats such quantities of fried *pat ha-ba'a be-kisnin*, such as donuts.

Therefore, many halakhic authorities (see Piskei Teshuvot 168:19) advise that one should not eat several fried donuts in one sitting, in order to avoid this question (in addition to the obvious health concerns...). According to this approach, it is preferable to ensure to eat only one or two donuts at a time, so that according to all views one should recite *mezonot* and *al ha-michya*.

*Dedicated to Elie Klein. Adapted from Rabbi David Silverberg at the Virtual Beit Midrash.*

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**Mt. Sinai Jewish Center**  
135 Bennett Avenue  
New York, NY 10040  
[www.mtsinaishul.com](http://www.mtsinaishul.com)

**Rabbi:** R' Ezra Schwartz  
**Rabbi Emeritus:** R' Mordecai Schnaidman  
**President:** Ben Sandler  
**Admin. Director:** Jerry Berkowitz

**Office Hours:**  
Sunday 8:30 - 12:00  
Mon, -Thurs 9:30 - 5:00  
Friday 8:30 - 12:00  
212-568-1900 • [office@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:office@mtsinaishul.com)



# The Mount Sinai Keshar

December 18-19, 2009 • 2 Tevet, 5770 • Parashat Mikeitz • Shabbat Hanukkah

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Shabbat Schedule	
Early Mincha	3:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	4:12 p.m.
Mincha	4:17 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 9:00 a.m.
Kri'at Shema before	9:34 a.m.
<b>Tot Shabbat (MPR)</b>	<b>10:45 a.m.</b>
Rabbi Schwartz's Gemara shiur	3:00 p.m.
Mincha	3:50 p.m.
<i>Seuda Shlishit following Mincha</i>	
Shkia	4:30 p.m.
Maariv/Havdala	5:17 p.m.
<b>Black and White Trivia Panoply</b>	<b>8:00 p.m.</b>

**Sponsorships**

For the **ERUV** sponsor, please tune in to the announcements in shul.

The **KESHER** is not sponsored this week.

**SEUDA SHLISHT** is sponsored by Sam and Dina Deutscher in memory of Jacob Neuman - Yaakov Shlomo ben Naftali.

*The Eruv DOES extend across Broadway, but does not extend into Fort Tryon Park. If you are not sure where you can carry, please contact the rabbi or a member of the eruv committee.*

Tefillah Schedule Week of December 20th	
<i>Shacharit</i>	
Sun., Fri	7:30, 8:30, 9:00 a.m.
Mon., Thurs.	6:45, 7:20, 8:00 a.m.
Tues., Wed.	7:00, 7:30, 8:00 a.m.
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	
Sunday - Thursday	4:20 p.m.
<i>Maariv</i>	
Sunday - Thursday	10:00 p.m.
<i>Next Shabbat, Parashat Vayigash</i>	
Candles	4:16 p.m.
Mincha	4:21 p.m.

**Rabbi Schwartz's Office Hours**

Wednesday: about 9:30 - 10:30 (after the 8:45 shiur)

NOTE: Rabbi Schwartz will be out of town the following week (of December 27th) and will not have office hours.

*Please send all announcements to [office@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:office@mtsinaishul.com) and [bulletin@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:bulletin@mtsinaishul.com) by 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Thank you!*



## חנוכה שמח!



**HATZOLAH**  
**(212) 230 - 1000**  
Volunteer Emergency Ambulance Service

### ***This Week at Mt. Sinai***

#### **Sunday:**

General Membership Meeting, 10:00 a.m. in the Beit Midrash. Members must be in good standing to attend.

Shiur with Rabbi Angel, 7:00 p.m. on Ezra and Nehemiah.

#### **Monday:**

Women's Basketball, 9:00 p.m. Contact: Susanne Goldstone, susqhb@gmail.com.

#### **Tuesday:**

Shiur with Rabbi Forman, 8:45 p.m. The 4th and final shiur on the story of Yosef.

Women's Basketball, 9:00 p.m. Contact: Elie Appleson, elie.appleson@gmail.com.

#### **Wednesday:**

Men's Basketball, 8:00 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

Class with Rabbi Schwartz, 8:45 p.m. on the Laws of

#### **Motzai Shabbat:**

Men's Basketball, 6:00 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

### **Chanukah Black and White Trivia Panoply Extravaganza**

**There are still a FEW spots  
left at the door! !  
This Sat. Night Dec 19th!**



Tickets include team trivia game, dinner, wine, and raffles for great prizes including a Netbook Computer!

For more information or to make a donation, see <http://mtsinaishul.com/content/BlackandWhiteTrivia>.

This event is a fundraiser for the JCC Food Pantry. Email Aliza Abrams and Rebecca Saidlower at [events@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:events@mtsinaishul.com).

### **General Membership Meeting**

There will be a  
**General Membership Meeting  
this Sunday, December 20th,**  
at 10am in the Beit Midrash.

This is a great opportunity to discuss as a community the challenges and opportunities which face as a shul as well as a chance to provide feedback to Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs.

Members must be in good standing to attend.

### **Message from the Gabbaim**

Our responsibilities as gabbaim include giving out kibbudim such as davening and aliyot. Thank G-d there are many, many people in the shul. While we do try to give out kibbudim as equitably as possible, even between the three of us, we don't know everyone in shul.

So, if you are a new member, or even a not-so-new member, and would like to daven from the amud, or if you have not received an aliyah in some time, please tell one of us. We are always looking for people who want to be involved in the davening and we want your help.

Also, if you have a question/suggestions/concerns or comments about how the davening is run, please tell us. We're happy to hear what you think, and what you have to say. Please find one of us in shul or contact us at [gabbaim@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:gabbaim@mtsinaishul.com).

*-Yoni Ray, Jeremy Stern,  
and David Mogilensky*

### **Mazal Tov!**

Leonard and Hilda Kromnick on the marriage of their granddaughter



### **Welcome New Members**



Chaim Sussman  
Esther Lichy  
Shalom Morris  
Pesia Soloveichik  
Ari Berger  
Michael Seidman  
Sivan Kerem

### **Got magazines?**

Magazines (less than 10 weeks old) can be dropped in the box outside the Beit Midrash to benefit hospitalized patients. Please cut out the address labels.



### **Tot Shabbat**

Parents and children-under-5 are invited to a children's davening service during Mussaf (approx. 10:45) in the **MPR** this Shabbat.



*Thank you to Alice Maltz, for once again helping the office with mailings.*

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